

Hindu Party Sees No Way Of Holding Onto Power

Radical Image Sticks As It Braces to Lose 'A Game of Numbers'

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

NEW DELHI — Unable to shake off a past that has left them with a reputation as a narrow, rabble-rousing movement with a vision for India that threatens Muslims and other minority groups, the Hindu nationalists who took power less than two weeks ago acknowledged Monday that they faced inevitable defeat in a parliamentary confidence vote Tuesday.

"Democracy is a game of numbers, and the numbers are not on our side," said Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who is expected to resign as prime minister immediately after the vote.

A new prime minister, almost certainly H.D. Deve Gowda, leader of an alliance of centrist and leftist parties known as the United Front, is likely to be appointed within hours of the vote, which is scheduled to be held around lunchtime Tuesday in New Delhi.

The countdown to the nationalists' ouster came in a parliamentary debate that offered some cheer to a country that has rarely faced a more uncertain political situation. Though stormy, the debate was threaded with impassioned speeches in defense of India's traditions of religious and cultural tolerance, which many here saw as threatened when the Bharatiya Janata Party emerged from an inconclusive general election earlier this spring with the largest bloc of seats in Parliament, then grabbed an offer to form a minority government.

Almost all of the condemnation of the nationalists came from lawmakers who are members of India's Hindu majority, which accounts for about 700 million of the country's 930 million people.

Pallippan Chidambaram, commerce minister in the Congress (I) Party government that was routed in the election, described the nationalists' brief rule as "a hasty, greedy usurpation of power," adding, "If you are illiberal, nonsecular and exclusionary, and if you have won only 20 percent of the vote and 30 percent of the seats in Parliament, then our parliamentary tradition requires that you go."

If defeated on Tuesday, the nationalists will have held power for 13 days, making them by far the shortest-lived of the 11 governments that have ruled India since independence in 1947. Led by

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AGENDA

Chess Match Shuns Baghdad

PARIS (Reuters) — The World Chess Federation, dropping plans to stage the world championship in Baghdad, said Monday that it would be held in Russia.

A statement said Gata Kamsky of the United States and Anatoli Karпов of Russia would play for the title in Elista, capital of the Kalmyk Republic, from June 5 to July 15. The federation president, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, astounded the chess world in March when he chose Baghdad for the championship despite UN sanctions against Iraq.

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Newsstand Prices

Bahrain	1,000 Dh	Malta	55 c
Cyprus	2.10 C	Nigeria	125.00 Naira
Denmark	14.00 DKK	Oman	1,250 Rials
Finland	12.00 F.M.	Qatar	10.00 Rials
Gibraltar	0.85 P	Rep. Ireland	IR 2.100
Great Britain	0.90	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R
Egypt	2E 5 S	S. Africa	R10 + VAT
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Kenya	K Sh. 150	U.S. MI (Ex)	\$ 1.20
Kuwait	800 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zim\$30.00



CHILDREN OF WAR — Boys in military-style fatigues carrying a Katyusha rocket model during a Hezbollah march in Beirut on Monday in honor of the 7th-century Shiite martyr Al Hussein, the sect's most revered saint.

Miami Vice: New Airport Efficiency

By Christopher S. Wren
New York Times Service

MIAMI — Many a jet-lagged traveler has felt the joy of journey's end dampened by the exasperation of having to line up at the Customs counter for a uniformed inspector's standard question, "Have you anything to declare?"

The U.S. Customs Service did not like it any better.

Despite the often futile searches of suitcases, mostly of law-abiding passengers, and the resulting lines of as long as three hours, more illegal drugs entered the country at Miami than at any other airport.

But Customs officials hope that may be changing with a strategy being tested at Miami International Airport. Inspections by uniformed officers have been reduced, speeding up passage through its inspection counters.

At the same time, plainclothes officers, trained to spot likely smugglers, mingle with passengers.

The result so far, officials say, is that they are catching more drug smugglers, while most travelers avoid the counters and clear the terminal in minutes.

"When we checked every bag, we didn't have the success that we now have, because the inspectors got bored," said Anthony W. Knapik, the Customs Service's director of passenger processing at the Miami airport. "Now it's like a game — let's find the guy" with the contraband.

Mr. Knapik said most passengers were law-abiding and did not need to be bothered by Customs inspectors. "The compliance rate is 99.94 percent," Mr. Knapik said. "We don't want to waste time with them."

D. Lynn Gordon, director of the Customs Management Center of

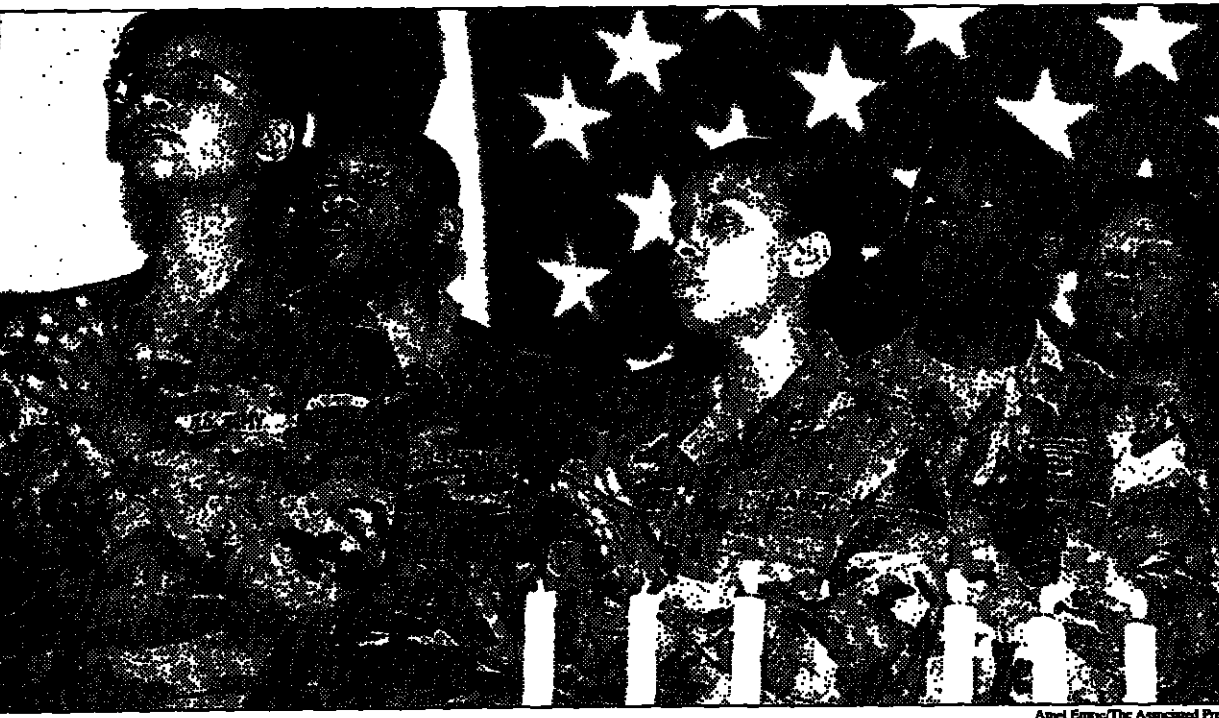
South Florida, said passengers were moving even faster than projected.

"The standard is five minutes from the time they pick up their bag until they're out the door," Ms. Gordon said. "Now 94 percent of the passengers are out in less than three minutes, and drug seizures are out of sight."

For a drug courier coached on how to navigate the airport, the hurdles now are more unpredictable. At the baggage carousel, a young man in jeans and running shoes may give fellow travelers a passing glance. Then a shaggy dog pads up, sniffs a false bottomed suitcase and sits down, tail wagging ominously. The man in jeans flashes a badge and escorts the suspect into a small room for questioning.

Miami International Airport was chosen for the test because it is one of

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REMEMBERING THE FALLEN — A U.S. Army gospel choir singing during the Memorial Day services on Monday at U.S. forces headquarters in Tuzla, Bosnia, that honored two Americans who died in Bosnia.

Kenyans Running for Their Lives on Long Road to Atlanta

By Stephen Buckley
Washington Post Service

ELDORET, Kenya — Every morning, often in the first soft light of dawn, teenagers fill rutted streets and red-dust roads of this East African country, squeezing in their morning workouts before school. They train as if they are running for their lives.

They are. For in this nation of 25 million, most of whom make less than a dollar a day, running has become the way out, the

road to respect and riches. It has become for Kenyans what basketball is to those soaring, dream-driven youths who crowd the playgrounds of America's inner cities.

"When I was a boy, the main thing on my mind was how to grow up and help my family live a better life," said Moses Tanui, 30, who won the 1996 Boston Marathon, earning \$100,000.

At this summer's Olympics in Atlanta, Tanui and Kenya's other top long-distance runners are expected to turn in sterling performances against

world-class competition, as they have for the last three decades.

This year the Boston Marathon — which Kenyans have won four straight times — epitomized their supremacy. They placed first, second and third. Fifteen Kenyans finished in the top 20. Between the mid-1980s and early 1990s, they won five world cross-country championships. Kenyans have won the 3,000-meter steeplechase in three straight Olympics. In 1992, Kenyans won eight Olympic medals, the most of any African country,

primarily in long-distance races. The success of Kenya's runners has prompted numerous theories. Some credit the mile-high altitude in much of Kenya. Some extol the three-workouts-a-day training regimen. The athletes say it is probably a mix, added to the consuming desire to win, born of growing up as some of the poorest people on the world's poorest continent.

The same could be said of runners from other East African countries, especially Ethiopia, that consistently produce first-rate middle- and long-distance

Yeltsin and Chechens Announce Cease-Fire

Big Boost for President Expected After Prompt Accord in Moscow

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Boris N. Yeltsin and the leaders of Chechnya's separatist forces Monday announced that hostilities in the 17-month-old war would end at midnight Friday.

The dramatic announcement came barely two hours after the Chechen delegates, several of them still in battle dress, flew to Moscow and were whisked by a heavily guarded motorcade into the Kremlin for talks.

A somber-looking Mr. Yeltsin, who until last week had refused any direct contact with the rebels, branding them as criminals, called the accord a historic event that would finally end the fighting in Chechnya. The war has claimed some 35,000 lives, most of them civilians.

There is no guarantee that this peace initiative will not unravel as others have. Indeed, it was apparent that neither side had dealt in Monday's talks with any of the political questions surrounding the war, let alone the thorniest problem: the rebels' demand for full independence from Russia.

But both Mr. Yeltsin and his Chechen rebel counterpart, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, desperately need a letup in the fighting at this point, and the accord may provide at least that.

The president, whose struggling reelection campaign has been dogged by the deeply unpopular war, badly wants the political lift a cease-fire would provide ahead of the June 16 ballot.

For the Chechens, who have lately been driven out of one of their last remaining strongholds by a murderous Russian assault, a respite at this point may be tantamount to survival. And Mr. Yandarbiyev, who became the rebels' leader only a month ago when his predecessor was killed in a Russian rocket attack, stood personally to gain in prestige by sitting down for talks with Mr. Yeltsin after so many months of hostile words at a distance.

"It's too early to say whether it will bring real peace or just buy time," said

Pavel Felgengauer, military analyst for the newspaper Sevodnya. "But for both leaders it's obviously a political boost, which is the rationale for why they so promptly agreed to meet each other."

Details of the accord signed Monday were sketchy beyond a pledge that both sides would release their prisoners within two weeks. Mr. Yeltsin, in opening the talks, said the important thing was to achieve a cessation of hostilities before moving on to other issues.

Mr. Yeltsin, 65, has said publicly that he will not be able to win re-election as long as the fighting in Chechnya continues, and Monday's meeting is but the latest, if most dramatic, effort to bring the war to a halt as the ballot approaches.

The last high-profile peace initiative in the grinding, bloody war was his unilateral declaration of a cease-fire March 31. That announcement never amounted to much.

For one thing, the Chechen rebels were never consulted. Russian forces appeared to ignore Mr. Yeltsin's order, pressing their spring offensive while calling it "special operations."

And when scores of Russian troops were killed in an ambush of their convoy a few weeks later, the emotional reaction in Moscow dashed any lingering hope that the fighting might die down in time for the presidential campaign's homestretch.

Soon after that, the Chechen rebel leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, was killed in the Russian attack, and Mr. Yandarbiyev was chosen to replace him.

Early this month, Mr. Yeltsin said he would personally fly to Chechnya in the coming weeks in a bid to end the war. His security chiefs all begged him not to in public, but Mr. Yeltsin, milking the pre-election publicity by repeating his intention for several days running, said there was no other way.

Then, last Thursday, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe announced that the leaders of the two sides would hold their first face-to-face talks since Mr. Yeltsin ordered troops into Chechnya in December 1994.

Bellwether Ohio County Ready to Vote for Clinton

By Michael Winerip
New York Times Service

CANTON, Ohio — Judith Snow, 57, is the voter Bob Dole must win over if he is to take the presidency.

Mrs. Snow is a Republican; she voted for George Bush in 1992, she runs a small clothing shop in the Republican suburb of North Canton and she is winnable.

"I just keep listening to Dole and Clinton," she said. "Some days, you think no, some days yes."

But if she cast her vote today, it would be for Bill Clinton.

Like many people here in Stark County, a strong political bellwether for national politics, Mrs. Snow has been shaken enough by the Republican-led Congress to move to President Clinton for now.

In her case, it was Congress's effort to scale back Medicare benefits. Three-quarters of all voters questioned here in a new poll think that cutting Medicare was wrong, including nearly two-thirds of all Republicans.

"I have an elderly mother living in the hospital right now, and she has Medicare, but it's not enough," said Mrs. Snow, whose husband is a producer coordinator for Diebold, a manufacturer of ATM machines.

"If they have to put her in a nursing home, we'll have to pay for it. My husband and I are five years from retirement, and we're wondering how we're going to make it."

As for Mr. Clinton, she said: "I give him credit. If he hadn't vetoed, who knows what would have happened with

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Likud Leader's Defiant Stance Taps Concerns of Many Israelis

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Service

TEL AVIV — When Benjamin Netanyahu swung through the Hatikva Quarter the other day, the singing, chanting, flag-waving crowd knew exactly what it wanted from its candidate for prime minister.

It wanted strength. It wanted defiance. It wanted a leader with the eyes to see that a New Middle East in which Jews and Arabs coexist peacefully is a dream for "pretty souls, the guys with little earrings in their ears," as a fruit vendor,

Shmuel Norieli, put it when Mr. Netanyahu had passed.

Such sentiments were as pervasive in the poor Hatikva neighborhood as the blended aromas of bus exhaust and lamb kebabs.

Since Israel's first accord with the Palestinians, said Zion Anati, 32, "we've had over 200 dead."

"So you tell me, where's the peace?" he said.

Malka Lavian, barricaded inside a wooden stall, opined that "you can't trust the Arabs even when they're in the

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Unhealed Wounds / 'I Come to Cleanse My Sins'

In the Killing Fields of Cambodia, the Tortured Bones Still Cry

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

TRAPAENG SVA, Cambodia — When the air grows still and heavy here in this pretty village far from any paved road, people say they sometimes hear the sun-bleached skulls of Cambodia's holocaust, piled nearby in the ruins of a schoolhouse, talking to one another.

"Sometimes we hear them crying," said Sim Than, a farmer. "You can hear the voices of women and children and men, just as if they were alive."

People say they still hear the faint ring of a lunch bell, as they did more than 17 years ago when the schoolhouse served as a prison and sometimes as a torture chamber. The worst, they say, is when they hear again the moans that came to them from a thick stand of bamboo where prisoners were clubbed to death in the back of the neck.

When the people of Trapaeng Sva walk their cows past the schoolhouse to graze, or when their children wander through picking small yellow berries, they sometimes stoop to place the skulls that the cows have knocked from among the many hundreds that are piled here.

Across Cambodia, at hundreds of former killing fields like this one, scattered bones and bits of clothing lie unburied and largely ignored. And in thousands of villages like this one, men and women who worked for the Khmer Rouge have returned to their formerly quiet lives, farming their fields and raising their children side by side with the families of people they abused and killed.

Those anonymous bones and unpunished victimizers are part of the fabric of Cambodia today, less than a generation after the horrific four-year rule of the Khmer Rouge, who from 1975 to early 1979 caused the deaths of a million or more people in one of history's cruelest episodes of mass murder.

Every year at the former schoolhouse 32 kilometers (20 miles) south of Phnom Penh, a small group of mourners gathers on the Day of the Dead with sticks of incense to pray for the restless souls of the victims. Among them is Chhun Chhon, an illiterate farmer who was a teenage guard at the prison.

"I come to cleanse my sins," he said in an interview at his small thatched house in Trapaeng Sva as his wife nursed the youngest of their four children.

"I know them very well," he said of the skulls. "I saw them being tortured."

to have sunk into apathy about the traumas of the past. To demonstrate the horrors of Khmer Rouge rule, many bones were exhumed by a new Cambodian government in the months after what is known as liberation, when a Vietnamese invasion drove the Khmer Rouge from power in January 1979. But since then, little has been done to lay the bones, or the memories, to rest.

Cambodia is a nation still struggling toward normalcy, burdened by a continuing insurgency, political instability and widespread poverty. Former members of the Khmer Rouge hold high positions in a new democratically elected government, together with people who opposed them.

Some people say it is the Buddhist way to forget and forgive. Some say they are following government orders to leave the bones on display and to ignore the former Khmer Rouge. Some say no one was to blame because all were simply following orders.

None of these explanations seem equal to the depth of the country's unhealed wounds. The lovely rice fields and lush ponds and stands of sugar palms and the quiet villages sheltered by feathery bamboo are filled with more pain than people here acknowledge.

"The first time I saw the skulls I was afraid," said Nou Heam, who lives just 180 meters (200 yards) from the schoolhouse but never dared approach it until the Khmer Rouge had fled.

"The second time, I was afraid too, but not so much," he said. "Now I pay no attention. It's just normal to have those skulls there."

In four days of interviews with villagers here, one name was most often repeated: Pic Chhoch, known to everyone as Uncle Chhoch, a frail noodle-seller who gives his age as 58 but looks far older. During the Khmer Rouge years, he was the village chief in the adjacent hamlet of Domre Slap.

It was Uncle Chhoch (pronounced CHOCK) who organized and ran the work brigades in which many people died of illness, starvation and abuse. It was he who enforced harsh orders for discipline from the central authorities. And it was he who helped interrogate and select villagers to be arrested and sent to the schoolhouse to be killed.

"He was very cruel," said a neighbor, Neth Chouk.

Today, one section of Domre Slap, a settlement of 80 families, is populated almost

entirely by the widows of men who were sent away and never returned. One of these is Kan Savi, whose husband had been a messenger for the British Embassy in Phnom Penh and was executed in 1977 when his identification card was discovered.

"They said he was a dog who served foreigners," Mrs. Kan Savi said.

In a radical Marxist attempt to transform Cambodia into a primitive agrarian society, the Khmer Rouge herded city dwellers into the countryside and sought out and killed people

Uncle Chhoch said he had been an eager recruit to the Khmer Rouge. "I was very poor, and I wanted everyone to be equal," he said. "I wanted everyone to be rich. Nobody would oppress anybody. Nobody would look down on anybody. No capitalism. No oppression."

His wife, who rises with him every day at 2 A.M. to help him make noodles, voiced her continuing contempt for the city dwellers who had been exiled to labor in the fields.

"They had a very bad attitude," she said. "They were not used to hard work. They were

used to air conditioning and automobiles, so of course they had a hard time."

But Uncle Chhoch laughed when asked if any of these people had refused to work. "On the contrary," he said. "They worked extra hard. They were afraid that if they didn't work hard enough, they would be taken away and killed."

"Yes, sure," he said, when asked if people had feared him. "When I received strict orders from above, I had to carry them out. I was afraid of the people above, and the people below were afraid of me."

When the Khmer Rouge fell from power, villagers across the country turned on people like Uncle Chhoch, and many were killed. People here say that for a long time, Uncle Chhoch did not leave his house. Even now, they say, he does not travel far from home and never leaves the village, for fear that in the anonymity of the open countryside someone might attack him.

"Yes, that is what I tell people, so they repeat what I say," Uncle Chhoch said, although he insisted that he was not afraid.

Since the ouster of the Khmer Rouge, villagers say, Uncle Chhoch has worked to buy back his good name, offering low-interest or interest-free loans to his neighbors. They say he accumulated a store of gold by confiscating it from his victims, and indeed his house, with a cement floor and a new tile roof, seems beyond the means of a noodle-seller.

Even as the sharpness of his neighbors' anger has faded, there seems to be a residual fear of the force of his personality.

"Some people still say bad things about me," Uncle Chhoch acknowledged. "When I hear about it, I go to their houses and I ask them, 'What are you saying about me?' and they say, 'Oh, no, it was nothing. I was just repeating something I heard.'"

When Chhun Chhon visits the skulls to

cleanse his sins, he said, he thinks of his severity toward the starving prisoners as they labored in nearby fields, digging canals and uprooting tree stumps.

"Sometimes I used bad words to them even though they were my elders," he said. "I kept control of them. If they were ordered to work, I had to tell them, 'Work, work.'"

Chhun Chhon was just 16 when he was recruited to serve at the prison. "They told me to guard the prisoners the way I would guard my own cow," he said.

As he recalled it, the schoolhouse and adjacent buildings where he worked housed 500 to 600 prisoners. "Sometimes many new ones arrived, and they had to take some out and kill them to make room," he said.

"They hit them and tortured them, and they were always asking, 'Are you working for the foreigners?'" he said. "If you said no, they hit you again. Only when you said yes did they stop hitting you and take you to be killed."

The only ones who survived, as far as Chhun Chhon knows, were those who were still alive when the Vietnamese invaded.

"One survivor was a doctor from a pediatric hospital," he said. "I had guarded her. And one time after liberation the doctor treated my baby daughter at a hospital and saved her life."

When his daughter was cured, he said, the former guard and the former prisoner talked. "She told me she had treated my daughter very well because I had treated her very well when I was a guard," Chhun Chhon said. "She invited me to visit her home any time I was free."

The doctor was in fact a pediatric nurse who now lives in retirement in Phnom Penh, and her name is Chhim Khim. She said she remembered Chhun Chhon well.

"He was one of the bad ones," she said in an interview. Unlike some other guards who would let the prisoners rest from their work or would look the other way when they found a little extra food, she said, Chhun Chhon was harsh.

"He wanted to live, just as I wanted to live," Mrs. Chhim Khim said. "So he did what he thought he had to do in order to survive. He did bad things."

Her memories of the prison still terrify her, and she has never returned to see the skulls. "Sometimes at night we heard people being killed," she said. "We heard them crying out, out by the bamboo trees. At night it is very quiet, and you can hear everything. We whispered to each other in the prison. They are killing people again."

Mrs. Kan Savi said she had visited the schoolhouse to look for her husband, Touch Vanna, soon after the Khmer Rouge fell in 1979. He had saved his identification card, unwisely, in the hope that he could again work for the British when this day came.

"Some of the skeletons still had their clothes," she said. "Some of them still had rotting flesh. I would have liked to cremate my husband, but it was impossible to know which bones were his."

Mrs. Kan Savi has since remarried, and when she talks about the bitter past, she avoids using the name of Uncle Chhoch.

"Just after the Khmer Rouge time, everyone was angry," she said. "I was too. But a lot of time has passed, and everything is calm now, everything is normal."



The Associated Press

with education or foreign connections, as well as monks, members of ethnic minorities and soldiers from the American-backed Lon Nol government that the Khmer Rouge had overthrown.

"Uncle Chhoch could kill anyone he wanted to," said Am Sok, who sells scarves and sarongs. "Everyone was afraid of him."

Sitting in his small yard as chickens pecked at the dirt around him, Uncle Chhoch smiled uneasily as he talked about the past, but he did not seem remorseful.

"It was easier to learn people's backgrounds at the beginning, before they realized they would be executed," he said. "Sometimes people hated one another, and they would tell you everything about one another. But after people began to be killed, it became much more difficult to interrogate them."

TRAVEL UPDATE

Ulster Tourism Rides Out Storm

BELFAST (Reuters) — The return of Irish guerrilla attacks in London have discouraged English tourism in Northern Ireland, but the French and the Germans are undeterred, tourism officials in the British-ruled province said Monday.

"While the London bombs have put off English visitors to an extent, the same cannot be said for Germany and France, where perceptions of Northern Ireland are still very positive," a spokesman for the Northern Ireland Tourist Board said.

According to the board, visitor inquiries at seven international offices dropped 40,000, to 109,000, from January to April. Last year, the province enjoyed a tourism boom after the Irish Republican Army called a truce in fighting against British rule. The IRA resumed its bombing campaign in February.

Israeli Strike Grounds Planes

JERUSALEM (AP) — Workers who fuel planes at Israel's Ben-Gurion International Airport went on strike Monday, grounding at least seven flights and stranding more than 1,000 passengers, Israeli radio said.

A spokesman for Israel Aviation Services said the strike was over a wage disagreement between the local union in the town of Lod, where the airport is situated, and the national Histadrut trade union.

At least 19 people have died this month in a cholera outbreak in Baganga, 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) south of Manila, a Health Department official said Monday. (AP)

Lithuania has quadrupled the price of its visas for residents of Russia and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. (AP)

WEATHER

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe			North America			Asia			Latin America			Africa			Oceania		
City	Today	Low/High	City	Today	Low/High	City	Today	Low/High	City	Today	Low/High	City	Today	Low/High	City	Today	Low/High
Algeria	28/78	18/64	Paris	28/78	18/64	Beijing	34/26	24/76	Buenos Aires	28/78	18/64	Cairo	34/26	24/76	Auckland	18/64	18/64
Amsterdam	14/57	48/58	Rome	28/78	18/64	Bombay	34/26	24/76	Caracas	34/26	24/76	Dakar	34/26	24/76	Sydney	18/64	18/64
Antwerp	14/57	48/58	Seville	28/78	18/64	Calcutta	34/26	24/76	Guatemala	28/78	18/64	Harare	34/26	24/76	Wellington	18/64	18/64
Athens	28/78	18/64	Stockholm	14/57	48/58	Chengdu	34/26	24/76	La Paz	28/78	18/64	Johannesburg	34/26	24/76			
Bangkok	28/78	18/64	Switzerland	14/57	48/58	Chongqing	34/26	24/76	Lima	28/78	18/64	Khartoum	34/26	24/76			
Barcelona	28/78	18/64	London	14/57	48/58	Guangzhou	34/26	24/76	Managua	28/78	18/64	Nairobi	34/26	24/76			
Berlin	14/57	48/58	Madrid	28/78	18/64	Harbin	34/26	24/76	Medan	28/78	18/64	Rabat	34/26	24/76			
Buenos Aires	28/78	18/64	Moscow	14/57	48/58	Heilongjiang	34/26	24/76	Montevideo	28/78	18/64	Tripoli	34/26	24/76			
Bucharest	14/57	48/58	Osaka	28/78	18/64	Inner Mongolia	34/26	24/76	Palma de Maior	28/78	18/64	Tunis	34/26	24/76			
Budapest	14/57	48/58	Seoul	28/78	18/64	Inner Mongolia	34/26	24/76	San Jose	28/78	18/64	Algiers	34/26	24/76			
Capetown	34/26	24/76	Singapore	28/78	18/64	Inner Mongolia	34/26	24/76	Sao Paulo	28/78	18/64	Conakry	34/26	24/76			
Casablanca	34/26	24/76	Taipei	28/78	18/64	Inner Mongolia	34/26	24/76	Santiago	28/78	18/64	Dakar	34/26	24/76			
Cebu	34/26	24/76	Tokyo	28/78	18/64	Inner Mongolia	34/26	24/76	Valparaiso	28/78	18/64	Harare	34/26	24/76			
Chicago	28/78	18/64	Yokohama	28/78	18/64	Inner Mongolia	34/26	24/76	Washington	28/78	18/64	Johannesburg	34/26	24/76			
Colombo	34/26	24/76				Inner Mongolia	34/26	24/76									

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Australia	001-800-777-1111	Ecuador	999-171	Laos	153-9777
Bahamas	800-366-6963	El Salvador	356-4777	Lebanon	800-0119
Bahrain	800-366-6963	Finland	800-1-0000	Libya	000-121
Belize	800-366-6963	France	800-366-6963	Macao	800-0119
Bermuda	800-366-6963	Germany	800-366-6963	Maldives	000-121
Bhutan	800-366-6963	Greece	800-366-6963	Malta	000-121
Bolivia	800-366-6963	Hong Kong	800-366-6963	Mexico	000-121
Bosnia & Herzegovina	800-366-6963	India	800-366-6963	Moldova	000-121
Brazil	800-366-6963	Indonesia	800-366-6963	Monaco	000-121
British Virgin Islands	800-366-6963	Iran	800-366-6963	Morocco	000-121
Bulgaria	800-366-6963	Israel	800-366-6963	Mozambique	000-121
Cameroon	800-366-6963	Italy	800-366-6963	Netherlands	000-121
Canada	800-366-6963	Japan	800-366-6963	Netherlands Antilles	000-121
Cayman Islands	800-366-6963	Kenya	800-366-6963	Nicaragua	000-121
Chad	800-366-6963	Korea (S.)	800-366-6963	Norway	000-121
Chile	800-366-6963	Korea (N.)	800-366-6963	Poland	000-121
China	800-366-6963	Korea (D.)	800-366-6963	Portugal	000-121
Colombia	800-366-6963	Korea (S.)	800-366-6963	Romania	000-121
Costa Rica	800-366-6963	Korea (N.)	800-366-6963	Russia	000-121
Croatia	800-366-6963	Korea (S.)	800-366-6963	Saudi Arabia	000-121
Cuba	800-366-6963	Korea (D.)	800-366-6963	Singapore	000-121
Cyprus	800-366-6963	Korea (S.)	800-366-6963	Slovak Republic	000-121
Czech Republic	800-366-6963	Korea (N.)	800-366-6963	Slovenia	000-121

THE AMERICAS

Updated, Republicans Consider Deep Tax Cuts

Supply Siders of the '80s Are Becoming The 'Pro-Growth' Proponents of the '90s

By Richard W. Stevenson
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — After years in the political wilderness, while official Washington focused on deficit reduction, Republican proponents of deep tax cuts are once again getting a serious hearing within their party.

They no longer call themselves supply siders, preferring the designation "pro-growth," because of the perceived failure of their policies in the Reagan presidency.

And they have updated their 1980s approach for the political realities of the 1990s, seeing their best opportunity since 1980 to make their ideology central to the Republican agenda. They are arguing that both the condition of the economy today and the political fight faced by Senator Bob Dole in his presidential campaign now make the time right to commit to the sweeping tax cuts they advocate.

And Mr. Dole, long one of their strongest foes in the party, is listening this time. He appears to be moving toward a tax cut, perhaps a 15 percent across-the-board reduction in the marginal tax rate, the percentage paid on the last dollar earned.

Trailing President Bill Clinton in the polls and still trying to define his economic message, Mr. Dole displayed his willingness to refocus his policies when he met last week with Steve Forbes, whose unsuccessful presidential campaign was built on a flat tax.

Advisers to Mr. Dole say that if he is elected, he is expected to embrace a long-term, fundamental overhaul of the tax system to bring rates down. But more immediately he appears to be settling on a tax cut within the existing system as a "down payment" on long-term change, one adviser said.

Some Republicans, feeling they were burned once when supply-side tax cuts contributed to soaring budget deficits, remain wary. And Democrats have promised to attack any large-scale tax-cut proposals by asking which popular programs Republicans would trim to pay for them.

Economists continue to cast doubts on some of the central tenets of the supply siders' philosophy, such as the argument that tax cuts will lead to higher savings rates. Wall Street would almost certainly punish any tax-cutting program that threatened to undo the progress made on the deficit by pushing up interest rates.

Still, Mr. Dole is leaning heavily for economic advice on a group of Republican senators, including Connie Mack of Florida, Robert F. Bennett of Utah and Spencer Abraham of Michigan, who favor a much stronger emphasis on tax cutting.

Strong support for the 15-percent cut has come from Bruce Bartlett, a former official in the Reagan and Bush administrations. Mr. Bartlett's tax-cut

strategy could also win the support of some Dole staff members, several of whom are former aides to Jack F. Kemp, the former housing secretary who is the current Republican standard bearer for the "growth" wing of the party.

To some degree, the supply siders have been chastened by their experience in the Reagan years, when tax cuts and continued increases in spending led to budget deficits that have yet to be controlled.

For the most part, the supply siders have dropped their argument that tax cuts can fully pay for themselves by generating greater economic growth.

Most economists believe that that position, labeled "voodoo economics" by George Bush in the 1980 primary campaign, was ultimately disproved in the 1980s. And few of them still adhere to the hard-line supply-side position that budget deficits do not matter.

But supply siders point to what they consider the success of Governor Christie Whitman of New Jersey in slashing both spending and taxes as a model for what can be achieved in today's political environment.

"There was a period when Republicans were embarrassed by the deficits, and through a conspiracy of silence allowed the Democrats to blame Reagan," Mr. Bennett said.

Then the realization that the Clinton tax increases had slowed growth has caused a lot of Republicans to come out and say that maybe on the growth side Reagan had it right, and that we just needed more restraint on the spending side," he said. "Dole has now figured out that you can have growth and still focus on the deficit."

There is a general consensus among economists that the U.S. economy is currently not capable of growing any faster in the long run than 2 percent to 2.5 percent a year, a rate that is sluggish by historical standards.

The supply side case is built on the argument that the economy is not growing at its full potential in large part because of a high tax burden.

Mr. Clinton, of course, has a different argument, that the slow but steady growth rates, low inflation and low unemployment rates of the last few years show that the economy is as sound as it has been in decades.

While there is no clear economic consensus about the precise benefits of tax cuts, the supply siders are throwing out an election-year barrage of statistics to make their case. Mr. Bartlett calculated that federal taxes as a percentage of total economic output last year were just slightly less than the record 20.8 percent they reached before Ronald Reagan won the White House in 1980.

Supply-side adherents say the economy needed the kind of boost a "pro-growth" policy can provide now more than ever before. Unless the economy can sustain higher growth rates, they contend, people will have trouble improving their living standards.



A workman carrying ValuJet cockpit recorder as it was recovered from the crash site near Miami.

Recorder Confirms Fire on Plane

Obtaining Oxygen Was Also a Problem in ValuJet's Cabin

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Six minutes into the doomed ValuJet Flight 592, the cockpit door opened and there was conversation about fire in the passenger cabin, officials said Monday after listening to the plane's voice recorder.

Robert Francis, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said the passengers also had problems getting oxygen before the plane crashed in the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 aboard.

"It appears that the cockpit door opened," Mr. Francis said at a news conference. "There were verbal indications from the

cockpit there was fire in the passenger cabin. There was also an indication from the cabin that there were problems obtaining oxygen."

Mr. Francis said the tape contained 30 minutes of recorded material, the normal capacity. He said that the tape was in good shape, but that the sound quality was poor and was "very very difficult to decipher."

Earlier, in Miami, Mike Benson, a spokesman for the safety board, said of the voice recorder: "It takes time to handle and get information out of it, and experts need to sit down and listen to it very carefully. We want to make sure we know what we have."

Mr. Benson could not say if the black box, found by a police diver in the Everglades muck on Sunday, might have gaps because of loss of power on the DC-9.

The data recorder, found two days after the crash, stopped 50 seconds before the flight ended.

The outer case of the voice recorder was damaged by the impact but was intact.

Taped conversations from the airport control towers indicated that there was smoke in the cockpit. Investigators said Sunday that fire damage had been found on an aluminum frame of a passenger seat, indicating that flames had reached into the cabin.

Dole Plans California Blitz

LOS ANGELES — With evidence building that he may seriously contest President Bill Clinton for California's trove of 54 electoral college votes, Senator Bob Dole plans to campaign the length of the Golden State in the coming week and, aides say, also will shake up the top of his California campaign staff.

On Tuesday, according to the aides, the presumed Republican nominee will kick off his first tour of the nation's biggest state since the March 26 primary by appointing Ken Khachigian, a Los Angeles lawyer with long experience in presidential races, to be the new day-to-day director of the California campaign effort.

The current director, Marty Wilson, a former state government official with limited national campaign experience and little input or assistance from Dole headquarters up to now, will be given another assignment, the aides said.

"The timing of the visit and the shake-up can be taken, frankly, as a sign that Bob Dole has suddenly gotten dead serious and focused about California," said one aide, who did not want to be identified.

Mr. Khachigian, who will take command of the California campaign at a time when Mr. Dole trails Mr. Clinton in the state by at least 20 points, and who will also advise the Dole camp on strategy in other states, declined to confirm the plan for his appointment. (NYT)

Liberal Anguish Over Clinton

WASHINGTON — A couple of months ago, Tina Podlodowski, a member of the Seattle City Council, an accomplished fund raiser, a Democrat and a lesbian, accepted an invitation to be a co-chairwoman of President Bill Clinton's re-election campaign in Washington state.

Thursday, Ms. Podlodowski resigned, offended, she said, by the White House announcement a day before that if a Republican bill that would deny federal recognition of gay marriages reached the president's desk, he would sign it.

"I'm still supportive of the president," Ms. Podlodowski said in a telephone interview. "I'm still a member of the Democratic National Committee. I will still work on state issues. But I don't feel compelled to stay on as a co-chair of his campaign. I knew he disagreed with me. I can accept that. But he didn't have to stick his finger in my eye."

Ms. Podlodowski is one of many liberals who feel let down by recent statements Mr. Clinton has made in trying to blunt Republican attacks from the right. Yet, like other supporters, she said she would stick with him because the Republican alternative is too stark.

Roger Wilkins, a history professor at George Mason University in Virginia and a longtime campaigner for civil rights and civil liberties, said Mr. Clinton had seized an opportunity handed to him by the House Speaker, Representative Newt Gingrich, and other Republicans to capture the political middle.

"Groups that feel out of the mainstream — labor, blacks, women, gays — feel terribly threatened by the savagery of what passes for political thought among House Republicans," Mr. Wilkins said. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

Donna E. Shalala, secretary of Health and Human Services, giving graduates advice in a commencement address at the University of Wisconsin: "Be diplomatic. When your parents ask how long you think you'll be living at home after graduation, lie." (WP)

Away From Politics

• The space shuttle Endeavour crept up behind a self-orienting satellite on Monday for a third round of tests as astronauts worked to complete the last major task of their 10-day mission. Commander John Casper guided the shuttle to within 1,670 feet (500 meters) of the wastebasket-sized craft during a 6 1/2-hour encounter to check its stability after five days of free flight. Astronauts reported that the 80-pound (36-kilogram) satellite traveled like a dart with its heavy end forward, as scientists anticipated. A slight wobble the crew observed two days ago had diminished. (AP)

• Tornadoes and other strong storms swept through several states, destroying homes, overturning cars and knocking a coal train off its tracks. Winds of up to 125 miles an hour ripped through western Missouri. At least 13 homes were destroyed and 98 others were damaged in Lee's Sum-

mit, a town outside Kansas City. At least 10 people were injured, none seriously. (AP)

• A fire destroyed an abandoned factory outlet complex in an old warehouse building in Reading, Pennsylvania, and damaged at least 15 nearby homes. Two fire fighters were treated for minor injuries. The blaze started in the former Great Factory Store outlet building, racing through the four-story brick building's wooden floors and showering cinders and debris over homes and cars for several blocks. (AP)

• The 3-year-old daughter of two Washington, D.C., police officers died after shooting herself in the head while playing with her father's service pistol. The police in Prince George's County, Maryland, said Courtney Rusnak climbed on furniture to reach the gun while left in a room by herself at home. The gun, a Glock semiautomatic pistol, belongs to her father, Officer George Rusnak, 35, of District Heights, who joined the force in 1989. (AP)

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Events in Burma Threaten to Fracture ASEAN Regional Forum

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Less than two years after it was established as the only organization dealing with Asia-Pacific security problems, the ASEAN Regional Forum is in danger of being fractured and bypassed by events in Burma and other parts of Asia that it cannot handle, analysts say.

Western members of the forum, including the United States, the European Union, Australia, Canada and New Zealand are becoming increasingly impatient with the acquiescent diplomacy toward Burma shown by many Asian members of the group.

The situation in Burma seems set to deepen divisions among the 19 members of the forum just as Japan and the United States are seeking to form separate organizations to tackle Asia-Pacific security problems that the group does not deal with, analysts said Monday.

After the most sweeping crackdown by the Burmese military regime against the opposition National League for Democracy since 1990, the United States said that it would appoint a special envoy early this week to discuss a coordinated response to the crisis in Burma with countries in Asia and Europe.

American officials indicated that sanctions would be one of the options discussed.

Australia had earlier awarded Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, one of its highest awards and said it was committed to working for "greater respect for human rights and for the restoration of democratic government in Burma."

Key Asian states in the forum have been pressing for inclusion of Burma as a new member in July without conditions, while Western countries favor tying its entry to measurable improvements in human rights and democracy, officials said.

Formed on the initiative of ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations, the forum's members are the seven

ASEAN countries — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — along with the United States, Russia, the European Union, China, Canada, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Laos and Cambodia.

Forum ministers of the forum, including Warren M. Christopher, the U.S. secretary of state, held their first annual talks in mid-1994 and are due to meet for a third time, in Jakarta, in July.

Lower level officials meet more frequently to discuss cooperation in areas such as confidence and security building, nuclear nonproliferation, peacekeeping, maritime security and preventive diplomacy.

But critics say that to prevent existing members like China from walking out and to encourage prospective members like Burma and North Korea to join, Asian countries have used the forum's consensus rule to ensure that there is no in-depth discussion or negotiation of such flashpoint security issues as the Korean Peninsula, Burma, Taiwan and Beijing's claims to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

As a result, the forum has "so far failed to come to grips" with the real conflicts in East Asia, the International Institute for Strategic Studies said in an assessment published last month.

At a recent meeting of senior officials of the forum in Indonesia, Chen Jian,

chief of the Chinese delegation, said that tension between China and Taiwan, and conflicting claims to ownership of the Spratlys among China, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei, were not under the purview of the forum.

"Taiwan is an internal matter of China," he said. "The South China Sea problem is being discussed bilaterally" between the claimants.

So there was no need for the forum to "intervene," Mr. Chen said.

The forum "really doesn't address the Northeast Asian issues," Michael Leifer, professor of international relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science, said Monday. "It doesn't even skirt them."

Burmese Fears for Her Followers

2 Face Charges, Opposition Leader Says at Party Congress

RANGOON — The Burmese opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said Monday that she was worried about the fate of more than 250 party activists arrested last week, saying that at least two had been charged by the military government.

She spoke after the second day of a meeting of her National League for Democracy ended without incident. The military government had tried to block the meeting by arresting party politicians last week.

"We are a little concerned about the elected representatives because, although the authorities have indicated that they would release them quite soon, there are other indications that the authorities are going to keep the elected representatives under detention for much longer than we think they are going to do," she said. "Certainly for much longer than just a few days. And it is quite certain that some people are going to be kept for a long time."

At least 258 party members, including 238 representatives elected in a 1990 election, were arrested ahead of the three-

day party congress that began Sunday. The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council said it had detained the members only for questioning in an attempt to prevent "anarchy" that might result from the party congress.

But Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that at least two of the representatives had been charged under a section of the Emergency Provision Powers Act, which authorizes the arrest of anyone alleged to be a threat to the peace and security of the country.

"Already," she said, "some delegates have had charges laid against them under Section 5E — it's a catch-all section. You can do anything to anybody under Section 5E."

In addition, although the ruling council said the detainees were being held in government guesthouses, she said that several, including her assistant and members of the party's youth wing, were in a Rangoon prison. In the past, she said, political prisoners in that prison were beaten, made to kneel on concrete floors until their knees bled or kept in cold rooms for days without food or clothes.

"Torture is something that is going on in Burma right now," she said.

The government has routinely denied allegations by international human rights groups that it tortures prisoners.

The more than 300 delegates attending the party congress discussed strategy on politics, economics, human rights, the constitution and unlawful practices by the military government, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

Asian governments were mostly silent Monday, but there were rumblings of concern from two of Burma's few donors.

Thailand was the only member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to express concern over the arrests and their consequences for the future of democracy in Burma.

President Kim Young Sam of South Korea, which this year extended a \$15 million loan to Rangoon, said it should respect human rights.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sadaaki Hayashi said Japan, the major source of foreign aid for Burma, would monitor the military government to see that it met demands for an immediate release of detained dissidents and a halt to its harassment of opposition advocates.



Burmese opposition members leaving their party congress Monday at the home of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

China Releases Top Party Official Jailed Over Tiananmen

By Patrick E. Tyler
New York Times Service

BEIJING — China on Monday released from prison the only top Communist Party official jailed in 1989 for opposing the imposition of martial law and the military assault on demonstrators in and around Tiananmen Square.

Bao Tong, 63, a senior aide to the former Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang and a vigorous critic of the hard-line prime minister, Li Peng, completed a seven-year prison sentence in ailing health, family members said, and was immediately escorted by the police out of the city to a mountainous resort area west of the capital.

He had been convicted of leaking "important state secrets" during the 1989 demonstrations and of "counterrevolutionary pro-

paganda and incitement," the term by which China classifies its political prisoners.

The significance of Mr. Bao's release is that it restores, however constrained by police surveillance and harassment, a once powerful and articulate voice committed to political reform. Mr. Bao's presence in the capital will serve as a reminder that a large number of political reformers, who carried out a vigorous pro-democracy campaign within the party throughout the 1980s, still live silently in Beijing waiting for a timely opportunity to reopen a long-closed discussion.

The conventional wisdom here is that as long as the paramount leader Deng Xiaoping continues to draw breath, the subject remains closed.

Under the terms of Mr. Bao's sentence, his political rights are denied for an additional two years, a condition that allows security

services to threaten political prisoners with reincarceration for speaking publicly on policy matters.

Members of Mr. Bao's family said they expected him to be held under continued

Why Bao Tong was jailed after the 1989 crackdown may never be fully explained.

detention until after the anniversary of the 1989 crackdown next Tuesday.

"He said he had no choice," his sister, Bao Jian, said of Mr. Bao's reaction to the terms of his release. The Associated Press reported from Beijing. "They told him it was because of June 4."

After that, Mr. Bao will probably be confined to his home under heavy surveillance.

At the remote resort-area guest house, Mr. Bao was greeted by his wife, Jiang Zongqiao, and members of his family, including a son, Bao Puli, who has worked on the staff of the group Human Rights in China, in New York, and has campaigned in the United States to win his father's release.

The official Xinhua news agency reported Mr. Bao's release, asserting that he had "received humanitarian treatment and medical care from the prison authorities."

"His various ailments, such as colic polypos, peritonitis and a primary decrease in white blood cells, which he had suffered from before being sent to prison, were effectively treated," the report said, adding, "He is now in good health."

In recent years, the Chinese authorities have consistently refused requests from President Bill Clinton and a number of members of Congress to release Mr. Bao early so that he could receive medical treatment.

Mr. Bao's detention, like that of China's most famous dissident, Wei Jingsheng, is supervised by the Ministry of State Security, and most queries about his health never received a reply.

The mystery of why Mr. Bao was the only Communist Party official to go to prison after the bloody assault on unarmed students the night of June 3, 1989, may never be fully explained. One theory is that Mr. Bao warned the students that party leaders had decided May 19 to impose martial law over Mr. Zhao's objections. Student leaders have said they received such warnings from aides to Mr. Zhao.

One former aide to Mr. Bao, Wu Guoguang, said Monday night in Hong Kong that Mr. Bao's biting criticism of Mr. Li in party circles had won him special enmity from the prime minister, who, after Mr. Zhao was toppled, moved quickly to exact revenge on Mr. Bao. "Li Peng especially hated Bao Tong," Mr. Wu said. "I believe that explains it."

INDIA: Hindu Nationalists Face Inevitable Defeat in a Confidence Vote

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Vajpayee, a moderate who has said that he would soon spend his days writing Hindi poetry as he engaged in the turmoil of Indian politics, the nationalists used their time in office to distance themselves from many of the policies opponents have described as demagogic and hostile to India's mosaic of minority groups, particularly the 120 million Muslims.

But the attempt to lure support from among more than a dozen parties that were arrayed against the nationalists in the new Parliament failed, with not a single member in the 545-seat legislature agreeing to break party ranks and align with them.

Many who spoke in the debate Monday described as deceitful the nationalists' attempts to present themselves as moderates who would in Mr. Vajpayee's words promote "harmonious relations" among the country's

different groups. "You are wolves in sheep's clothing," Mr. Chidambaram said.

In a speech opening the debate, Mr. Vajpayee betrayed his nervousness, starting with the words, "Mr. Prime Minister," as though his predecessor in the post, P. V. Narasimha Rao, had never stepped down.

But the nationalist leader quickly steadied himself, accusing other parties of disparaging one another during the campaign, then uniting after the vote count on "a single agenda" — blocking the nationalists. To call for support from opponents and cheer from supporters, he added, "Yours is the politics of convenience."

Mr. Vajpayee, who at 70 has served a lifetime in politics awaiting the chance to be prime minister, seemed less bitter than many in his Bharatiya Janata Party, which leaped from two seats in the 1984 election to 120 in 1991 and 160 in the election that just concluded.

Still, he argued that the parties aligned against his government had distorted the na-

tionalists' agenda. "Your propaganda against us, that we are not secular, is not based on fact," he said. "The BJP has made it clear that it is committed to secular ideals."

But the assurances failed to still the uproar as speaker after speaker said that India could not tolerate a government that threatened to destroy the country's social fabric.

Murasoli Maran, a member of a regional party from the southern state of Tamil Nadu, warned that the "uniformity" the nationalists wanted to impose on India, including a requirement for nationwide schooling in Hindi, a language spoken by only 30 percent of all Indians, threatened Hindus from other regions and cultures, as well as Muslims.

"Look around you," he said, surveying a chamber whose members are drawn from an array of different cultures, regions and language groups. "If you persist with this attempt to suppress diversity, India will become dismembered like the Soviet Union."

China Executes 11 Thieves in Anti-Crime Crackdown

HONG KONG — China has executed at least 11 people for theft as part of a crackdown on crime, the official Xinhua news agency reported Monday.

Xinhua said 11 thieves had been executed by provincial courts across the country for "large-scale" theft.

"The death sentences spell a warning to gangsters and compulsive thieves that they will face the ultimate sentence for the misdeeds," Xinhua said.

Among the 11 thieves, all described as "hardened criminals," three had records of "re-education" through labor or had served prison terms, it said.

The criminals' sole purpose for stealing is to get enough money for a luxurious life, while the victims are mostly industrial enterprises, mines, stores and state coffers," Liu Jiachen, vice-president of the Supreme People's Court in Beijing, was quoted as saying.

The latest announcement followed a

report by the Beijing Youth Daily on Monday that seven men had been executed Saturday for charges that included murder, rape and robbery.

Dozens of people have been executed across China since the anti-crime crackdown, called "Strike Hard," was launched last month.

Courts in southern and eastern China on Tuesday ordered the executions of 39 people, many of them gang members, for crimes ranging from robbery to rape.

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BRIEFLY ASIA

Taiwan's 'Goodwill' Gesture

TAIPEI — Taiwan's top agency for China policy eased a ban on visits by experts from the mainland in a bid to mend sour relations with Beijing, an official said Monday.

"Despite gloomy relations across the Taiwan Strait, our opening policy toward the mainland remains unchanged," Kao Koong-lian, spokesman for the cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council, said in a broadcast on state radio. "It shows our goodwill to improve relations with the mainland."

The council decision will allow visits to Taiwan by mainland experts in the legal, property, construction and media sectors, Mr. Kao said. The decision also will allow Taiwan's state-run firms to import parts and semi-finished goods from the mainland without having to report the transactions to the authorities, he said.

Taiwan now allows visits by mainland economic, agricultural, cultural and educational, financial and environmental protection professionals. (Reuters)

China Separatists Kill Mullah

BEIJING — Separatists fighting for the independence of China's Xinjiang region have assassinated a pro-government Muslim leader, officials said Monday, in what they said was part of a series of political killings.

An underground group of pro-independence "splittists" based in the regional capital, Urumqi, have killed six or seven people and wounded four others since February, a local official in the region's western Toksu County said. He said the killings of the mullah, identified as Akenmu Sidike, an adviser and two policemen were all politically motivated.

Beijing has ordered strict punishment of Communist Party members implicated in pro-independence assassinations or bombings in the frontier region, official media said. (Reuters)

North Korea Drops Tokyo Visit

TOKYO — North Korea on Monday postponed a mission to Japan at the last minute, apparently miffed at the low-key reception it was set to receive from its hosts, an official from one of Japan's governing parties said.

The Social Democrats' coalition partners — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party and the small Sakigake party — declined to meet the delegation until North Korea agreed to proposed four-way peace talks between North and South Korea, China and the United States.

The delegation from North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, scheduled to begin an eight-day visit on Monday to discuss food aid and long-stalled Japan-North Korea normalization talks, then abruptly served notice it would not be arriving.

"It was a sudden postponement and we are very puzzled," a Social Democrat official said. (Reuters)

Mongolia Brush Fires Burn On

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia — The death toll from five weeks of huge fires across Mongolia has risen to 24 after the charred bodies of six missing soldiers were found in a burnt-out forest, officials said Monday.

Fires roaring across arid steppes and woods have seriously injured 62 people, made thousands homeless and have dealt a heavy blow to the nation's fragile economy. A government spokesman said about 100 fires had been brought under partial control while an additional 38 raged unchecked. (Reuters)

VOICES From Asia

Chen Kaiyuan, secretary of the Communist Party in Tibet, on a new crackdown on supporters of the Dalai Lama: "Under the coat of religion, some people are disturbing the social order, damaging temples and public assets and destroying national union and Tibet's stability. This cannot be tolerated." (Reuters)

Patrick Dodson, chairman of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, marking the start of reconciliation week in Australia: "Why is it that we as human beings are incapable of getting beyond our prejudices, our biases and our ignorances? Why can we not find a core of commonality to thread us together? We all have to live here, and we as aboriginal people want a better quality of life than we have had up to date." (Reuters)

EUROPE

When Yeltsin Goes Out Soliciting Votes, He Arrives Like Santa Claus

By Lee Hockstader

Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — When he visited the giant Frunze collective farm in southwestern Russia a few weeks ago, President Boris N. Yeltsin did not arrive empty-handed.

These days, only three weeks before the presidential election, he rarely goes anywhere empty-handed.

Branding a fat fountain pen that has become a fixture of his election campaign, Mr. Yeltsin signed a decree granting the farm a new truck. Beaming, he handed over the documents and, clearly relishing his campaign image as a good czar, bid the farmers farewell.

A week later, the truck arrived from the factory.

So, will Russian farmers vote for Mr. Yeltsin in the June 16 election? Don't count on it.

"We should have asked for more, 5 or 10 trucks," Nikolai

Vesologov, deputy director of the farm, said during a telephone interview. He plans to vote for Mr. Yeltsin's Communist rival, Gennadi A. Zyuganov.

A truck driver at the farm asked sourly what Mr. Yeltsin had done to deserve his vote.

Three weeks before the first-round vote, Mr. Yeltsin's hyperactive campaign has made up a tremendous amount of ground, but it still may have some distance to go.

Gauging voters' opinions is very difficult in Russia, but according to the polling data available, Mr. Yeltsin has roared back from single-digit approval ratings last winter to draw ahead of Mr. Zyuganov this month and into first place. His campaign, though poorly organized, is an awesome display of the immense powers of the presidency — a whirlwind of pork-barrel politics, extravagant spending promises and budget-busting tax breaks.

The Russian leader has left no

constituency untouched, no problem untended. One day he meets with former dissidents in an effort to patch up relations with liberals. The next day he dispatches his foreign minister to Cuba to see President Fidel Castro, thereby courting hard-line conservatives who want Russia to rekindle old Soviet friendships.

At Mr. Yeltsin's command, back wages are being paid. Pensions have been increased. There have been initiatives to help miners, home buyers and defense plants, Muslims, children in the North, retirees bilked of their savings and students on skimpy stipends. This week, when the Russian leader meets for the first time with Chechen separatist leaders, he may take real steps toward ending that unpopular war.

And with the formidable help of Russian television, which is still mostly government controlled and does Mr. Yeltsin's bidding on the evening news, he has run political circles around his opponents.

"To be successful, Yeltsin had to change his image, to become a new man," wrote the newspaper Kaliningradskaya Pravda. "And this is exactly what he is doing."

Yet, for all his campaign-trail activism, Mr. Yeltsin, 65, plainly is still running scared. Many regard with suspicion the polls that predict he is in the lead and insist that they overstate the president's support.

Mr. Yeltsin's campaign managers, who conduct their own polling, are said to believe that he is running neck-and-neck with Mr. Zyuganov. That means he is likely to face Mr. Zyuganov in a second-round, runoff election as early as July 7.

But who would win is anyone's guess. In interviews outside Moscow, Mr. Yeltsin's natural base of support, many Russians say they may end up voting for the president — but only if there is no way to avoid it.

What each candidate does and says in the closing weeks of the

election could easily tip the balance, analysts say.

What seems certain is that the Russian leader will continue to use his tremendous advantages of incumbency to full effect.

Over the weekend, in a trip to the Far North, he handed out favors and cash like a ward boss whose precinct spanned 11 time zones.

"I've come with full pockets," he told voters in the port city of Arkhangelsk. "Today, a little money will be coming to the Arkhangelsk region."

The next day, like Santa Claus flying in from the North Pole, he was off to the frozen mining city of Vorkuta. There, he declared that miners — who had not been paid since February — would receive a \$26 million package that would cover their back wages, part of \$6 billion in spending since the beginning of the year to cover over- due salaries.

He told miners working deep underground, "I'm going up, changing my clothes, washing up

and signing a decree." In response to complaints about the high cost of travel to warmer climes, Mr. Yeltsin promised to subsidize children's trips to the sunny south.

For retirees, he declared there would be grants to build retirement housing in warmer regions.

To remake his image as an ailing old man with a drinking problem, Mr. Yeltsin's handlers had him wade into crowds with a wireless microphone, banter with voters, descend into the mine and rock back and forth on a stand-up wooden swing with a delighted young girl swinging behind him.

His every pronouncement, every handshake, every stroke of his famous pen dominates the evening newscast. Mr. Zyuganov is mentioned later, if at all, often in an unflattering 30-second blip tucked in among the campaign's also-rans.

It is a campaign finely tuned at once to play on the ancient Russian conception of a benevolent

czar surrounded by corrupt aides and also to appropriate the positions of his Communist opponents.

Mr. Yeltsin has tried to leave an impression that, ill advised before by his aides, he has arrived to set things right.

Mr. Yeltsin's manner of paternalism and populism "have helped restore the image of a strong, charismatic and confident leader," wrote Gherman Dili-gensky, head of the Center for Comparative Social and Political Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences.

It has also threatened to wreck Russia's budget for 1996. Western economists have warned that Mr. Yeltsin's spending pledges and tax breaks, coupled with sluggish tax collections, could spark inflation and damage Moscow's \$10 billion loan deal with the International Monetary Fund. The accord sets maximum quarterly deficit targets that Mr. Yeltsin's promises could jeopardize.

World War Wound Reopens in Bonn

Expulsions by Czechs a Hot Issue

REUTERS
BONN — The German political opposition demanded Monday that Chancellor Helmut Kohl reprimand Finance Minister Theo Waigel for remarks about Czechoslovakia's expulsion of ethnic Germans at the end of World War II.

Foreign Minister Josef Zieleson of the Czech Republic called for German politicians to stop lecturing his country about the issue.

Mr. Waigel reopened a dispute both sides wanted to play down before Czech general elections this week. At a weekend congress of expelled, he urged Prague to admit that crimes had been committed against the German minority when more than 2 million were driven out of the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia.

He said that a German-Czech reconciliation treaty, which both sides hope will finally lay to rest wartime grudges, could not be signed without the expelled's participation — something Prague vehemently rejects.

The foreign affairs spokesman for the Social Democrats, Günter Verheugen, said that his party "expects the chancellor to reject these provocative remarks in no uncertain terms."

Mr. Waigel is chairman of the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union, Mr. Kohl's junior partner in Bonn. A large number of so-called Sudeten Germans live in Bavaria and are important to political fortunes there.

Mr. Verheugen accused the party of claiming a virtual veto over German-Czech relations.

"This is not a matter for the Bavarian state government," he said. "Foreign policy is the responsibility of the federal government."

He said comments by Mr. Waigel and the Bavarian premier, Edmund Stoiber, reflected "a petty insistence on historical points of law which have no practical relevance but instead summon up deep

fears in the Czech Republic."

Mr. Zieleson, in a statement that did not mention Mr. Waigel by name, said: "I do not like hearing that some people are claiming the right for Germany to have a monopoly on what is the culture of European law and values."

"Our democracy was not granted or given to us from outside. It is the democracy which we ourselves pushed through and that is why it is stable. We do not need suggestions of this kind from anyone."

The Czech prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, earlier criticized Mr. Waigel's remarks, saying Prague did not need instruction on the rule of law.

"I am also very much surprised that anybody should wish us to speak about World War II with regret," he said. "I have the feeling it is the German side which should speak about the whole matter very quietly."

There was no immediate comment from Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrat government. But the flare-up was likely to irritate the Foreign Ministry, which has been toiling quietly with Prague on a declaration by both parliaments to settle the issue.

Officials say a draft is almost ready but signing has been set aside until after Czech elections on May 31 and June 1.

Czech officials say Czech parties had also tacitly agreed to keep the issue out of the election campaign.

The Sudeten Germans are seeking compensation for property they lost when about 2.5 million were driven out of old German territories in 1945 and the following year, after the wartime occupying Nazi power capitulated to the Allies.

Many German civilians and soldiers were reported to have been beaten and some killed on the roads during their long march through Czechoslovak territory to reach Germany.



Albanians celebrating the Democratic Party victory Monday around the party's headquarters in Tirana.

Albanians Dispute Ruling Party's Victory

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TIRANA, Albania — The governing Democratic Party celebrated Monday what they called a big victory in Albania's elections, but monitors were checking charges of irregularities to judge whether the voting Sunday was free and fair.

President Sali Berisha proclaimed Sunday's vote a crushing triumph over the heirs to Albania's isolationist Communist past.

His foes, who had argued that the Democrats should be thrown out of office after four years because of corruption and abuse of power, called for a protest rally.

"We decided that tomorrow at 12 noon in Skanderbeg Square, all the parties call on their disillusioned electors that lost the right to vote and the freedoms won in December 1990 to come together and

demonstrate," said Neritan Ceka, speaking on behalf of six opposition parties.

Mr. Ceka was speaking at a news conference in the name of the main opposition Socialist Party, his own Democratic Alliance and four others — among a total of nine groupings that withdrew from the elections as people went to the polls Sunday to protest what they called abuses.

The opposition pulled out of the former Communist state's third general election, charging that the Democratic Party had intimidated voters and monitors and manipulated the results.

Media that backed Mr. Berisha said initial results indicated that the Democrats would win about 60 percent of the vote nationwide. But official results were not expected for days.

An estimated 80 percent of

Albania's 2.2 million voters took part.

Members of parliaments from countries of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, who monitored more than 50 polling stations, said election officials appeared to have done their job, but said they spotted a number of "irregularities and technical shortcomings."

Urban Ahlin of Sweden said he saw a man come into a polling station with seven or eight ballots and put them into the ballot box.

But the group as a whole said it was premature to offer an opinion on whether the elections had been fair. Other monitoring groups were still gathering reports.

The opposition charged that local officials had been intimidated, that monitors and local election-commis-

sion members had been shut out of polling stations and that procedural irregularities had made it possible for the Democrats to manipulate vote totals.

They said they would not participate in second-round voting next Sunday for any seats not already decided, and would not take their seats in Parliament.

The Albanian electorate disillusioned by the results should come to the rally tomorrow, or the day after it will be too late," said Mr. Ceka of the Democratic Alliance. He said organizers would not ask for police permission to hold the rally.

Mr. Berisha, his eyes red and misty, was obviously savoring the expected outcome. He called his foes' decision to pull out "irresponsible and absurd." (AP, Reuters)

BRIEFLY EUROPE

German Arrested in Spain

HAMBURG — The police in Spain have arrested a fugitive wanted in the kidnapping of a German millionaire who was held in a north German cellar for 33 days, authorities said Monday.

Wolfgang Koszics and Peter Richter have been sought for the abduction of Jan Philipp Reemtsma, who was freed April 26 after his family paid 30 million Deutsche marks (\$20 million), the highest ransom in German history.

A spokesman for the Spanish Interior Ministry police, said Mr. Koszics, 54, was arrested in Murcia, in southeastern Spain.

Although the German police have received more than 300 tips during their investigation, there is no trace of Mr. Richter, who is 58.

Mr. Reemtsma, 43, was kidnapped March 25 in front of his villa in an upscale section of Hamburg. (AP)

British Concern on Baby Milk

LONDON — Doctors and consumer groups accused the British government on Monday of a cover-up over evidence that leading brands of baby milk contain chemicals that could impair fertility.

They demanded to know the names of nine brands that the Agriculture Ministry has said contain levels of phthalates close to the amounts that have caused a reduction in sperm counts in experiments on rats.

"Mothers will find this very frightening," said Dr. John Chisholm of the British Medical Association. "They have a right to know the facts so that they can choose milk that is safe."

The Agriculture Ministry, already under fire for its handling of the "mad cow" disease crisis, said there was no cause for worry. (Reuters)

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Tuesday:

BRUSSELS: The commissioner for fraud control, Anita Gradin, and the commissioner for social affairs, Padraig Flynn, meet the Irish justice minister, Nora Owen.

BRUSSELS: The commissioner for relations with Africa, João de Deus Pinheiro, meets the Dutch cooperation minister, Jan Pronk.

BRUSSELS: The European Commission president, Jacques Santer, and the commissioner for energy and tourism, Christos Papoutis, meet with the vice president of the World Bank, Jean-François Richard.

Sources: *Agence Europe, AFP*

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Britain Blocks EU on Burma and Threatens Aid Programs

BRUSSELS — Britain's campaign to disrupt European Union business moved from internal issues to foreign affairs on Monday as London refused to sign off on routine diplomatic statements issued by the 15-nation bloc.

EU diplomats said Britain had blocked two joint foreign policy initiatives on Monday and was poised to veto development aid programs for some of the world's

poorest countries at a ministerial meeting in Brussels on Tuesday.

"Systematically, when unanimity is required, they are blocking things," an EU official said.

Prime Minister John Major last week announced a campaign of non-cooperation in EU affairs until Britain's partners moved to lift a world-wide ban on British beef exports.

The ban was imposed on March 27 amid fears that "mad cow" dis-

ease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, had links to a deadly human equivalent.

Under its new policy, Britain is either vetoing or delaying any business that requires the support of all 15 Union members.

Diplomats said this entered the foreign policy realm when Britain refused to agree to a joint EU statement condemning Burma for arresting dissidents. Italy, the current

EU president, issued a statement on its own.

Britain was also blocking a decision to send observers to monitor elections in Mongolia, officials said.

In London, meanwhile, a former education minister, George Walden, on Sunday threatened to abandon the Mr. Major's Conservative Party if it did not tone down its "petty nationalism."

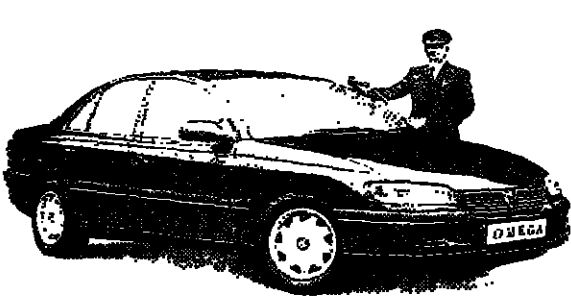
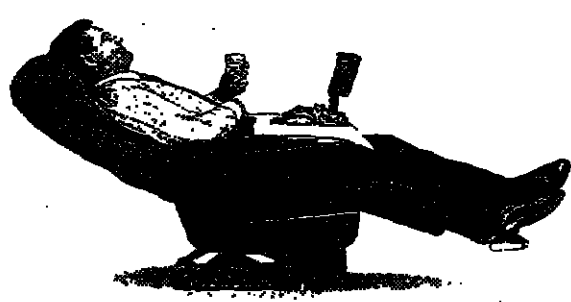
"If this is the beginning of a trend of the government getting on its patriotic high horse and waving little plastic Union Jacks," Mr. Walden declared, "then I would be extremely uncomfortable in such a party."

The Conservatives would lose their parliamentary majority if even one member left the party, an option Mr. Walden said he was not alone in considering. (Reuters, AFP)

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INTERNATIONAL

West's Intervention in Africa: Not Solving the Problems

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

BANGUI, Central African Republic — In the space of two months, two foreign military interventions, one American, the other French, have been mounted to extract Westerners from violence that has all but destroyed two African capitals.

In Monrovia, Liberia, American forces swooped onto the grounds of the seaside U.S. Embassy early in April, defending an area extending no further than the mission's high white walls.

Occasional blasts from U.S. Marine machine guns were enough to prevent

ing about Bangui in tanks and armored personnel carriers.

In short order, Paris, too, had pulled off the successful evacuation of about 3,000 French citizens and other foreigners.

But as different as the recent American and French military operations in the western half of this continent appear to be on the surface, what Africans say unites them is a complete failure of the outside powers to hear out the people affected by the crises about their own wishes and needs.

Liberians, for instance, complain bitterly that Washington's display of power

and watching us through the fence while we get killed by stray bullets."

But the Liberians, however disappointed, still look toward the United States in times of crisis. In contrast, most Central Africans met in two days of walking about this devastated city were anything but thankful for a French intervention that killed a sizable but still undetermined number of people.

As much as the death toll, Central Africans deeply resented what they saw as the latest reminder from an over-

have seldom rendered us any service," said Gregory Mamelosson, 35, a tailor who spoke in the shade of a tree near the camp where the leaders of the mutiny, who have become popular heroes, remained holed up.

"Under their thumb, this country's economy has not developed, and regimes come and go, but things never change," Mr. Mamelosson said.

Late Sunday, the mutinous soldiers here announced that a tentative settlement had been reached to end the country's nine-day crisis.

Shortly afterward, the country's president, Ange-Félix Patassé said that he had agreed to a general amnesty for the

that Africans say border on contempt for those governed. And bilateral ties between Paris and its African clients, they say, have degenerated into secretive, corrupting compacts with local leaders whose concerns for the common man are at best secondary.

During the length of the latest wave of crisis in Liberia's nearly seven-year civil war, Washington seems to have grappled little with questions of its responsibility, historical or moral, to a small African country that is the closest thing there has ever been to a U.S. colony on this continent and where perhaps 200,000 people have been killed.

Speaking off the record, officials looking back on that time now acknowledge that Washington was far more preoccupied with maintaining its presence in a country that served as an important Cold War communications base than it was in advancing the cause of democracy or good governance in Africa.

For France, meanwhile, which under the government of President Jacques Chirac has occasionally expressed reservations about the wisdom of pushing African countries too quickly toward democracy, the Central African crisis has briefly opened a rare discussion of the corruption that dominates the affairs of many of Paris' African clients.

Rebel Troops Back in Camp

Reuters

BANGUI, Central African Republic — French troops rounded up rebellious soldiers and returned them to barracks Monday after President Ange-Félix Patassé promised them amnesty for a mutiny.

After the French troops rounded up the mutineers in different districts of Bangui, diplomatic sources said, a convoy of armored vehicles escorted them to Camp Kassai on the outskirts of the capital.

Residents of Bangui ventured out for the first time in more than a week to view the desecration caused by the fighting, in which scores of people were killed. Shops and homes were looted and burned, and a triumphal arch erected for the 1977 coronation of former Emperor Jean-Bédel Bokassa is scarred with bullet holes.

The French troops who intervened to support Mr. Patassé remained on the streets, saying they would maintain security to facilitate direct talks between the soldiers and the government.

Opposition politicians said the events of the past 10 days demonstrated that Mr. Patassé had lost all political credibility.

NEWS ANALYSIS

militiamen from seriously threatening the embassy or interfering with an evacuation exercise that quickly drew some 3,000 foreigners to safety abroad.

Here, in the Central African Republic, France mounted the latest of many military interventions in its former African colonial empire, sending in troops after several days of an open revolt by this country's soldiers, the second mutiny in two months over unpaid salaries.

The French forces flew over this city, opening fire with deadly effect on mutineers from helicopters and zoom-

Africans say there is a complete failure of the outside powers to hear out the people affected by the crises.

bearing France of the sharp limits of their sovereignty. Paris may have said it was defending an elected leader against yet another African coup d'état, but many here saw things differently.

Yet again, they said over and over in angry streetcorner conversations, for reasons of its own, was vetoing the verdict of a people against a government that in two years in office has earned a reputation as hopelessly ineffective, deeply corrupt and intolerant of dissent.

"The French colonized us, but they

soldiers and said he would be forming a government of national unity.

The difference in the U.S. and French interventions lies in part in their recent histories on the continent. For the United States, after the disastrous intervention in Somalia in 1992, the minuscule scope of the Liberian operation seems dictated by official horror of getting involved in sticky African crises, no matter how tragic.

For France, decades of colonial rule and 36 years of heavy-handed post-colonial domination have bred instincts

of getting involved in sticky African crises, no matter how tragic.

For France, decades of colonial rule and 36 years of heavy-handed post-colonial domination have bred instincts



UNDETERRED — Eyad R. Sarraj, held nine days by the Palestinian Authority after calling it dictatorial, on Monday denouncing "torture" by that government.

Moderate Arabs Pull for Peres, but Not With Any Fervor

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

CAIRO — Fearing that a victory by the rightist Likud Party in Israeli elections Wednesday could delay or even derail Middle East peace talks, moderate Arab leaders are quietly pulling for the Labor Party government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres, albeit with little enthusiasm.

From Egypt to the Gulf, moderate Arab politicians are reluctant to identify too closely with Mr. Peres, the focus of widespread Arab anger stemming from the Israeli bombardment of Lebanon last month as well as Mr. Peres' decision to impose harsh security measures on Gaza and the West Bank.

At the same time, officials in these countries are deeply concerned about the possibility of a victory by the leader of Likud, Benjamin Netanyahu, given his vocal opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state and declared intention to expand Jewish set-

tlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

A Likud government, a senior official in Riyadh said this month, "will definitely not just delay the peace process — it will unravel it."

The Saudi official added: "Our expectation is that not only would there be no progress but this government would take aggressive moves, lead us to the brink of war."

Not every Arab official takes such an apocalyptic view. Some contend that there are fewer differences between the two candidates than meet the eye. Mr. Peres, they note, has repositioned himself in recent months as more of a hawk, while Mr. Netanyahu has tried to distance himself from his party's more extreme positions on the Middle East peace process.

"Without a doubt there is a difference between Labor and Likud," said one Egyptian official, "but I don't think it's the difference people are talking about. I don't think Likud is anti-peace, and I don't think Labor is anti-peace at any price."

"This election is not about Likud and

Labor," he added. "It's about whether you want to take the chance for peace. Whoever is elected, if they don't offer the Palestinians a Palestinian state, you're not going to have a successful peace process."

But the Egyptian acknowledged that a Labor victory was more likely to lead to "a quick resumption of the peace process," which has lost momentum in recent months. In particular, negotiations between Syria and Israel are deadlocked over the fate of the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau overlooking the Sea of Galilee that was seized by Israel in 1967. Syria has insisted that Israel commit to full withdrawal from the Golan in return for full peace and normal relations.

Mr. Peres has strongly hinted that he would give up the Golan Heights in exchange for the right peace agreement; Mr. Netanyahu has said he would "never" do so.

The views of moderate Arab governments on the Israeli elections are expressed almost entirely in private. Pro-Western Arab states

have maintained a studied aloofness, asserting that they have no wish to involve themselves in Israeli domestic politics.

In part, that is because they know they have little influence over the outcome and will have to live with the results, even if that means Mr. Netanyahu. King Hussein of Jordan, for example, remains Mr. Peres's closest Arab ally. But he has had little to say on the elections and has spent much of the campaign season traveling outside the region.

"We have a neutral position," said Marwan Moasher, the minister of information of Jordan. "We have signed a peace treaty with the state of Israel, a treaty that has enjoyed widespread consensus in Israel."

Privately, Jordanian officials express deep concern that a Likud victory could have dangerous consequences. Because Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel before a full settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, any interruption in the peace process could lead to tensions between Jordan and its Arab neighbors.

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SWITZERLAND

INTERNATIONAL

Catholic Women Ordained

Breakaway Sect in Germany Challenges Pope

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

CONSTANCE, Germany — For many centuries, history has been punctuated here with turbulent questions of faith that seem to contrast oddly with the placid waters of Lake Constance nuzzling against the fens and churches of this medieval town. And Monday was no exception.

Under a soaring, gilded altar that bespeaks Christianity's long reach, clerics and preachers from various denominations gathered in a panoply of red robes as a schismatic Catholic Church ordained two married women as priests, reinvigorating the divisive discussion among Christians about the role of women in their churches.

For some, the ceremony at the 17th-century Church of Christ was an occasion to feel what they depict as a groundswell of renewal among Catholics pressing for a liberalized church teachings.

But, coming less than three weeks before Pope John Paul

II visits Germany, the service seemed destined also to illuminate the profound gulf between such aspirations and the Pope's commitment to doctrinal conservatism.

Angela Berlis, a theologian, and Regina Pickel-Bossan, a schoolteacher, are the first-ordained Catholic women to be ordained as priests in Western Europe, following the Anglican Church's ordination of women as clerics in Britain two years ago.

The two took their vows as priests of a denomination founded to protest the First Vatican Council's declaration of papal infallibility in 1870.

"It is not truly painful that the church has taken almost 2,000 years to finally come to the conclusion that women should be brought into the highest service of the church, just like men," asked Bishop Joachim Vobbe, the leader of Old Catholics in Germany, who laid hands on the two women to ordain them.

The Pope, who is to visit Paderborn and Berlin in June, is profoundly opposed to the ordination of women.

The Church of Christ was filled to overflowing with hundreds of congregants, including representatives of the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Old Catholic Church has about 30,000 German members and some 230,000 worldwide, compared with the almost 1 billion Roman Catholics around the world.

But the ceremony Monday illuminated a deep crisis among European Christians. Of Germany's 28 million baptized Roman Catholics, for instance, only around 5 million are regular churchgoers, and of those, some 1.5 million signed a petition last autumn urging the Pope to relax his stern views on sexuality and women as priests.

The chief papal spokesman, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, said from Rome before the Constance ordination that the Vatican viewed the Old Catholics as schismatics.

He also questioned whether Mrs. Berlis and Mrs. Pickel-Bossan, or indeed, any Old Catholic clerics, were priests at all in the Catholic sense.

"This is not a sociological but a theological topic," he said, because Catholics believe in transubstantiation — that is, that the bread and wine offered in communion services are literally the blood and body of Christ — while Old Catholics see only allegorical significance in the Eucharist.

"The question is not whether they allow women to be ordained," he said, "but what we mean by ordination."



MASSACRE MEMORIAL — Sarajevo children placing flowers Monday where shells killed 17 people standing in a bread line four years earlier.

ISRAEL: Netanyahu's Voters

Continued from Page 1

grave." In this country, it is a sign of high confidence for a politician to stroll through a marketplace full of ripe fruit. Working-class precincts like the Hataiva Quarter are Netanyahu strongholds in Wednesday's national election, and the Likud bloc leader has played to their emotions.

The last pre-election polls show Mr. Netanyahu only a few percentage points behind Prime Minister Shimon Peres in what will be Israel's first direct election of a prime minister, and Israeli analysts say Likud's history of last-minute surges makes the race too close to call. The stakes are high: Mr. Netanyahu's record and rhetoric suggest he will at the very least transform the Middle East peace process, if not freeze it, and could restore some of the tension to U.S.-Israeli relations that prevailed under the last Likud government, from 1983 to 1992.

But even as Mr. Netanyahu has played to the hard line during the campaign, he has also softened his message for consumption by undecided centrists and shown a capacity for pragmatism as leader of the Likud, the only institution he has run.

Sorting out Mr. Netanyahu's intentions is consequently an uncertain art. "Making a secure peace" is Mr. Netanyahu's campaign slogan, but it is not only a slogan. Most Israelis are ready for compromise with the Arab world, and Mr. Netanyahu would need their continuing support to stay in power and maintain good relations with Washington.

The rhetoric of Mr. Netanyahu's campaign and the history of his rise to party leadership begin with a bedrock ideological belief in Israel's exclusive right to sovereignty from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea — including the West Bank, home to 1.3 million Palestinians.

He is contemptuous of most Arab leaders, none more than Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and head of the governing body to which Israel has granted limited autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He regards Israel as an embattled state, its existence still very much at risk.

The vision of peace in his books and speeches is triumphalist, requiring few if any concessions, and he wrote in "A Place Among the Nations," the intellectual foundation of his campaign, that it would take "a few decades" to attain. His central idea is that Israel must build its power and defend all its land until it is "so much stronger" that it is "a nation with which the overwhelming majority of Arabs and Arab leaders would finally have made their peace."

All this derives from a world view he developed as the second of three sons of an intellectual author of Revisionist Zionism, Ben-Zion Netanyahu, who argued for the right of the Jewish people, to both sides of the Jordan River, including what is today the country of Jordan.

And yet Benjamin Netanyahu has cast aside some of his father's legacy, most notably by endorsing Israel's 1994 peace accord with Jordan.

For years after Israel and the PLO reached mutual recognition, Mr. Netanyahu related career-long comparisons between the PLO and Nazis, saying Mr. Arafat's goal was to reduce Israel "to its former indefensible frontiers and proceed to destroy it from there."

More recently, he has softened his oft-stated refusal to meet with Mr. Arafat. Mr. Netanyahu still heaps scorn on Mr. Arafat and makes promises inconsistent with the Israeli-Palestinian agreements signed to date. He often says, for example, that he will put \$400 million into new Jewish settlements instead of "handing it to the PLO."

Addressing the most basic of Israel's concessions, the withdrawal of its army from Palestinian cities, Mr. Netanyahu recently declared: "We will say to our security forces, 'You can go anywhere, anytime, not only in the world, but in our land, in the Land of Israel — anywhere, anytime, as is necessary to protect Jewish lives.'"

Hitler Ordered Reprisal, German Says in Rome

Agence France-Press

ROME — Hitler personally ordered the shooting of 10 Italians for every German SS man killed in an Italian Resistance attack on Nazi occupiers in Rome in 1944, a former German officer told a military court here Monday.

Written testimony submitted by Dietrich Beelitz, 69, was presented at the trial of a former SS officer, Erich Priebke, charged with involvement in the murder of 333 Italians.

The massacre was in retaliation for the killing of 33 German SS troops in an ambush in the middle of Rome in March 1944.

In a letter to Mr. Priebke's lawyer, Mr. Beelitz said: "The order to kill 10 Italians for every German killed came directly from Hitler."

"It was impossible to evade this, and anyone refusing to obey would have been immediately shot."

Mr. Priebke, 62, is charged with "repeated murder committed with cruelty" for his part in the massacre, in which the Italians were executed on March 24, 1944, in the Ardeatine Caves. His defense is that he was carrying out orders. Mr. Beelitz, too, insists to attend the hearing, was at the time a liaison colonel in Rome.

Spanish General Charged With 'Dirty War' Murders

The Associated Press

MADRID — A judge charged a Civil Guard general with murder, kidnapping and torture on Monday in connection with the government's alleged war against Basque separatists.

Bail for General Enrique Rodríguez Galindo, who was arrested on Thursday, was set at 100 million pesetas (\$800,000).

A former Interior Minister and former head of state security are also charged with participating in a "dirty war" in the 1980s waged under the name of the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups, or GAL, which singled out separatists in their haven in France.

Judge Javier Gómez de Liano indicted General Rodríguez Galindo for orchestrating the kidnapping, torture and murder of two Basque separatists, José Antonio Lasa and José Ignacio Zabala, in 1983, according to press reports.

A source at the court said Judge Gómez de Liano was unavailable to comment because he was continuing to interrogate witnesses behind closed doors.

The judge also charged a Civil Guard lieutenant, Pedro Gómez Nieto, for carrying out the killings. In addition, General Rodríguez Galindo's lawyer, Jorge Argote, was charged with withholding evidence, the reports said.

KENYA: Running for Their Lives on the Long Road to Atlanta

Continued from Page 1

ships. David Okoye, secretary of the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association, says that allowing the champions to see upcoming talent sharpens the veterans and inspires the corners.

Kenya's youngsters have watched their countrymen win Olympic medals for three decades. They learn to emulate such legends as Kip Keino, Olympic gold medalist in the 1,500 in 1968 and 1972, and Matthew Birir, 1992 Olympic champion in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Tamui and several other top Kenyan runners train in this farming town some 185 miles northwest of Nairobi, the nation's capital. It is like most of Kenya's countryside towns: Its people make a little more than \$300 a year.

And like many Kenyan towns, Eldoret sits more than a mile high. The altitude, combined with cool weather, stunning vistas and an undulating terrain, has

made Eldoret and surrounding areas a favorite training spot for Kenyans.

"The altitude is a definite advantage. I think," Tamui said. "When I run at sea level, sometimes I can get my time down by more than a minute."

Many of Kenya's top athletes hail from western Kenya, where boys grow up chasing rabbits, walking miles to school, raising cattle and sometimes raiding each other's livestock, another practice that makes them fleet of foot.

Tamui recalls his youth in a village called Turbo, just outside Eldoret, with nine brothers and sisters. His family crammed into a hut. His father, who owned fewer than 20 cattle and sheep, sometimes could not pay the school fees. Tamui ran three miles to school in the morning, then home for lunch, back to school, then home in the afternoon.

"That is how a lot of us started running," said Tamui. "We did it because we didn't have a choice."

Today, Tamui's simple brick home is a shrine to his success over the last decade. The living room's glass showcases are stuffed with more than 30 trophies.

He owns three farms. He drives a Mercedes-Benz and a Toyota Land Cruiser. He has a 25-inch television and a VCR. He wears fine clothes. Workers scurry to tend his needs.

Tamui is careful to share his wealth with his family. He built a house for his parents. He bought his father a tractor and purchased two vehicles for the family. He pays his siblings' school fees as well as for the schooling of 40 other children.

In his living room recently, Tamui watched a movie with his 7-year-old son, Kiprotich, a slender, bright-eyed boy who quickly fixed the VCR when his father fumbled with the settings.

"I don't want to force him to run," Tamui said. "I want him to play whatever sport he is interested in. But, at school, he is already winning races."

dogs, including beagles and spaniels, to detect illegal drugs. But Ms. Gordon said, "We found the traffic here was so big that the little dogs were being trampled, so we had to change to bigger dogs."

Now recruits from the local dog pound, who are still handled by uniformed inspectors, are as big as Abby, a Chesapeake Bay retriever who recently sniffed out heavily taped 10-pound packets of cocaine sprayed with dog repellent on a couple of couriers.

The inspectors vary the rhythm with "bitzes," examining all airline crews one afternoon, or most passengers on a flight from, say, Colombia.

Customs officials acknowledge that the strategy cannot catch all the drugs flooding into South Florida. "Do we miss some people?" Mr. Knapik said. "Certainly, but we're getting more than we ever did."

CUSTOMS: Faster Lines (and More Busts) at the Miami Airport

Continued from Page 1

the nation's busiest, ranking second behind New York's Kennedy International Airport in the number of passengers arriving from abroad. As many as 4,000 passengers arrive in a single hour.

When the program was announced, skeptics said it would attract even more criminals to Miami and result in more smuggling.

But since October, when the experiment began, Customs inspectors at Miami's airport have seized nearly three tons of cocaine and other illegal drugs, up more than 40 percent over previous periods.

The hunt begins even before the plane is a blip on Miami radar screens. "Before the flight gets here, I'm already working the flight," Thomas M. Roland Jr., a supervisory inspector, said.

Airlines electronically supply flight

manifests before planes land. Agents may search a computer for the names or passport numbers of suspected drug traffickers.

Plainclothes inspectors, liberated from static duty at the counters, can scrutinize the behavior of passengers anywhere in the terminal.

"If you're very nervous and you're nervous for a reason, your body sends out signals that you can't control," Mr. Roland said. Some movements also give couriers away: a traveler with cocaine taped around his waist must bend at the knees to pick up a suitcase.

Jay R. McNamara, a roving in jeans and sports shirt, has made 57 drug seizures since he started mingling with travelers.

"I read people's eyes," Mr. McNamara said. "I look for obvious signs of nervousness — hands shaking, sweating."

The interdiction effort already used

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OPINION/LETTERS

With '2 Devils' in the Lead, What's Best for Russia?

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — "There are two devils," says Grigori Yavlinsky, the democratic reformer presently running third in the race for president of Russia. "One is a small devil — that is Yeltsin. One is a big devil — that is the Communist Zuyuganov."

The 44-year-old free-market economist is explaining the dilemma facing Russian voters as they go to the polls June 16. We are on a telephone line being sloppily tapped by the KGB — a kind of conference call with clicks and sudden drops in volume.

"All the media here," says Mr. Yavlinsky, "on the theory of choosing the lesser of two evils, tell the people: better the small devil. But they forget that when the small devil overcomes the big devil, he becomes the biggest devil."

Mr. Yavlinsky is the victim of media that believe that the only way to preserve their freedom, endangered by a return to communism, is to manipulate the report. By becoming propagandists — building up one candidate, blacking out all the others — almost all Russian media have been shamelessly committed to breathing new life into Boris Yeltsin.

Polls show the lesser-evil campaign has been working. Mr. Yeltsin's support has supposedly grown from single digits to about 20 percent, matching the percentage supposedly achieved by the Communist leader, leaving other candidates in single digits.

Russian polling has a record of being egregiously wrong, and most present polls wildly assume voter turnout of 85 percent. But the press drumbeating of the polls has



Russian Elections

workers. But many of us hate to watch without wishing.

We cannot be for the Communist. After interviewing Mr. Zyuganov, I concluded that he was not the stupid apparition and lousy campaigner he was cracked down to be; on the contrary, he is an adroit politician, alert and robustly capable of presenting one face to the West and the opposite on the stump. If Communists win, this Russian election could be the last.

Nor should we root for a Yeltsin triumph. As Mr. Yavlinsky says: "After leading Russia down the path of corruption; after killing 60,000 people in Chechnya for nothing — if the people still supported Yeltsin, he would think he's God. There would be no limit to his power."

Mr. Yavlinsky's chances are small; the

Visitors Turn the Pages And Speak Their Minds

By Geneva Overholser

WASHINGTON — Lots of foreigners live in Washington. Many more come to visit. As they read American newspapers, they have powerful reactions, which I hear in visits to the ombudsman's office or in comments after speeches around town.

Press traditions in their home countries vary, of course, and so do these critics' views about press freedom in the United States. To some, this so-unfettered press is an enviable dream; to others, it seems noisy and unruly. Still others find it simply an odd variation on pretty much what they are accustomed to.

Interestingly, in addition to their own views, foreign visitors often mention their awareness that many Americans distrust the press. Last week's visitor to the office was a press official from Ghana. He asked me if I felt that these credibility problems are fed by lack of required training or certification for journalists here.

In fact, journalists today are far better educated than ever before, but not necessarily more in touch with readers. Indeed many critics assert the opposite — that, as journalists have become more and more academic and economic elite, they are less and less in touch with the average American's life.

Today's highfalutin press corps, for example, is quick to see the dilemma of the tiny slice of high school students vying to get into elite universities, slow to see the struggle of the families sending children to community colleges. Surely this is one contributor to the decline in confidence and trust in the media, not to mention the decline in circulation.

A South African critic of the American press recently noted how many American journalists are seeking to be players in a process they are supposed to be observing and describing. When they take this role, not just reporting but shaping public opinion, they stir public fears about credibility and about lack of public accountability.

If it is not training they need, today's journalists could surely use reminders that journalism is an act of public service, that journalists in the end really work for the people

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Karadzic's Fate

Regarding "Bosnian Press Demands to Banish Serbian Leaders" (May 23):

As the report stated, Bosnia has been obsessed with elections for some time. The Dayton peace agreement makes elections contingent upon a number of conditions including freedom of movement (for example, between Srebrenica and the Bosnian-Croatian federation) and the unhindered return of displaced persons and refugees. However, the issue that underpins all arguments concerning the success or failure of the Dayton agreement revolves around Radovan Karadzic and company.

Former Senator George J.

Mitchell, in his capacity as chairman of the private International Crisis Group, stated recently at a press conference in Sarajevo the vital importance of extraditing the so-called war criminals.

This call has been robustly echoed by Carl Bildt, the high representative overseeing the civilian peace effort, who has taken other steps to undermine the power that Mr. Karadzic still wields. This has stiffened the resolve of the hard-line Bosnian Serbs. Mr. Karadzic has thrown down the gauntlet.

It is more urgent than ever before for the international community to act. These guys must go.

NICHOLAS HINTON,
London.

Regarding "NATO Should Grow a Backbone and Go After War Criminals" (Opinion, May 11) by Richard Cohen:

The truth of the matter is that due to myriad issues, no Western government will provide unequivocal intelligence and military support leading to the arrest of indicted Serbian, Croatian and Muslim war criminals.

Aside from the notable exception of the Bosnian government, neither Serbia nor Croatia have aided the tribunal in any substantial manner.

If governmental institutions are unable or unwilling to enforce a critical part of the Dayton peace agreement, might not a bounty system funded through private donations be sufficient to accelerate the arrest of the 57 alleged war criminals? Bounty recipients and their immediate families might also be given the opportunity to relocate to a Western country and obtain new identities.

Only bona fide residents of the former Yugoslavia would be eligible to collect awards, thereby excluding foreign mercenaries.

Members of the various paramilitary groups who provide protection to Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic might think twice about working for these men if, for example, a \$2 million bounty were offered for their arrest and transfer in good health to the tribunal in The Hague.

Even if there were no immediate takers, putting a price on the heads of Mr. Karadzic and Gen-

eral Mladic would probably reduce the number of their public appearances, thereby reducing their influence. What is more certain is that many of the 55 others accused of war crimes would more easily be compromised by their encouragements if the bounty incentives were high enough.

PHILIP WEISER,
Paris.

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BOOKS

SPIES WITHOUT CLOAKS

The KGB's Successors
By Amy Knight. 318 pages.
\$24.95. Princeton University Press.

Reviewed by
Anthony Olcott

NOW that the euphoria of early post-communism is abating, even casual observers know that Russia's "report card" on the eve of its fifth anniversary is decidedly mixed: Russian zillions build villas on the Mediterranean, but old people die of cold and hunger, their pensions unpaid; Russia has freely elected two parliaments, but one was closed by Boris Yeltsin's tanks, while its successor has proven largely impotent because of constitutional changes imposed by Yeltsin; a presidential campaign is under way, but there are widespread accusations that the winner is a forgone conclusion; freedom of the press has become a vigorous habit, yet

public opinion can do nothing to stop the bloody and endless war which the government is waging against its own citizens in Chechnya.

What is documented by Amy Knight's meticulous study, however, is that "free Russia" is even more of a fiction than most of us might have supposed, beginning with the attempted coup that created Yeltsin's image as the "democrat on the tank."

Knight convincingly argues that the attempted coup of August 1991 was little more than elaborate political theater, in which Gorbachev, Yeltsin and the other actors played scripted parts.

A major author of that script, or so Knight implies, was Russia's security forces, the focus of her book. Alone of all major Soviet institutions, the KGB and its successors have survived the transition to independent Russia with their enormous powers all but unchanged. Indeed, as Knight documents, the successors of the KGB have actually increased, in both number and reach, since the birth of in-

dependent Russia.

The KGB has now fissioned into five separate agencies in Russia alone. There are also security agencies and ministries in the 14 other ex-Soviet states, most of them still staffed by people who have at least personal allegiances, if not more, to their colleagues in what now are foreign states.

To be sure, there have been some changes; shrinking state revenues have crimped security budgets, while public hostility to the KGB has spawned some efforts to reform that vast bureaucracy. However, in Knight's recounting, the KGB's heirs appear now to be even more vigorous than was their parent; budgetary woes have been offset by the movement of former KGB personnel (and many sub-agencies) into lucrative businesses, while halfhearted parliamentary attempts to establish civilian oversight of the Federal Security Service, heir to the domestic surveillance functions of the KGB, were easily stopped. Under Evgeni Primakov (now foreign minis-

ter), the portfolio of the Foreign Intelligence Service (FIS), heir to the KGB's foreign intelligence branch, has even expanded to include formation of Russia's foreign policy.

What "Spies Without Cloaks" does not try to explain, however, is what ends Russian policy now serve or the principles which shape it. For all the mystery which surrounded the old KGB, we know at least that its army of agents, informants and enthusiasts worked for the leadership of the Communist Party, maintaining and extending Soviet authority. The collapse of communism has brought no replacement ideology, and so we have no statement of the ends toward which Russia's new security forces are really working or for whom.

Knight argues that strengthening democracy and encouraging the development of rule by law in Russia are no more the goals of the KGB's successors than they were of the KGB. She also suggests strongly that the allegiances of most, or perhaps all, of the KGB's successors are, first, to their own preservation and then to individuals such as Boris Yeltsin, rather than to such abstractions of citizenship as the office of president. Even more unsettling, Knight suggests that Russia's new security forces are not only continuing the same kinds of skulduggery as they undertook in the past — examples cited include the murders of a newspaper editor and a Helsinki Watch monitor — but are now also expertly manipulating public opinion in Russia and the rest of the world to obscure and disguise what they do.

If "Spies Without Cloaks" is correct, much of Russia today is little more than a mutant KGB, the communist ideology it once served now replaced by ruthless devotion to great-power politics and bottom-line capitalism. That possibility is so disquieting that it is tempting to wish that Knight had allowed her book also to step beyond sober analysis and so suggest ways in which America might respond to a Russia which remains clutched by these off-spring of the KGB.

Anthony Olcott, associate professor of Russian at Colgate University, wrote this for The Washington Post.

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

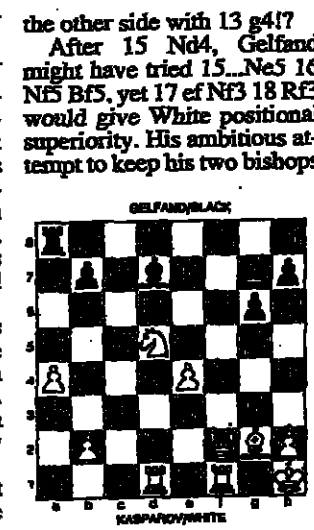
IN the Max Euwe International Tournament in Amsterdam, Garry Kasparov, put aside all jitters and won his final game against Boris Gelfand of Belarus to tie with Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria for first place. Kasparov's performance was also spirited and adventurous.

Lately, Anatoli Karpov's longtime weapon against the Najdorf Variation Sicilian Defense, the quiet, positional 6 Be2, has been making a resurgence with some new tactical underpinnings.

The old 9 Kh1 is what Bobby Fischer would have called a high-class waiting move. It has been refurbished by an important recent game.

In Khalifman-Logvinov encounter last year, the accepted riposte 9...b5?! was given rough treatment by 10 a4 Bb7 11 Nd5! Nb7 12 Ne7 Qc7 13 Bc4! Na5! Ne5 15 Nb7! Nb7 16 Ra4, which yielded White the bishop pair and a strong game over all.

Once Gelfand had taken his queen off to the queen's wing with 12...Qb6, Kasparov opened hostilities on



the other side with 13 g4! After 15 Nc4, Gelfand might have tried 15...Ne5 16 Nb5, yet 17 e4 Nb3 18 Rf3 would give White positional superiority. His ambitious attempt to keep his two bishops

vulnerable d6 pawn. It made sense for Gelfand to seize a pawn with 27...Nc2 because he was in a lost position anyway and might as well make whatever challenge he could. But after 28 Nd5 Qd8 29 Qf2 Nb4, Kasparov started the final crushing attack against both wings with 30 Nb6! Gelfand had to avoid 30...Ra6 31 Qf7 Kh8 32 Nd7 Re7 33 Qf6 Kf8 34 Bh3!

Gelfand struggled on with 30...Bg4 31 Qf7 Kh8 32 Na8 Bd1, but after 33 Rd1 Qa8 34 Qf6 Kf8 35 Rd6, the threats of 36 Rd8 and 36 Qe5 could not be simultaneously defended against. On 35...Re8, Kasparov threw in the third threat, 36 Rd7! with mate to follow. Gelfand gave up.

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Mandie Erickson (here with her father, Eric, a designer) is one of the youngsters in New York fashion set.

New York Fashion's Brat Pack

By Constance C.R. White
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — It was a Thursday night, and four stylish young women had made their way to a favorite table in a corner of Café Tabac, a trendy East Village restaurant. There, George Wayne, a talented writer for Allure magazine, was serving as the host for a party in honor of the new haircut for the supermodel Marcus Schenkenberg.

If this absurdity gave the women pause, they did not show it. After all, they have spent their whole lives in fashion's upper reaches, where the air can get awfully thin. They are fashion's own brat pack, an emerging group of New Yorkers in their late teens to early 20s who have come of age in fashion and have begun to have an impact on the stylescape.

The children of some of Seventh Avenue's most important arbiters, the pack includes Lulu Johnson, the daughter of the designer Betsey Johnson; Vanessa Salle, the daughter of the Vogue photographer Roxanne Lowitt; and Donna Karan's daughter, Gabrielle Karan.

These young fashion acolytes have spent their days toiling in fashion, shaping their parents' work in ways both abstract and tangible, from suggesting styles for particular collections to inspiring magazine features.

And on any given night, several of them can be found hanging out together, party-hopping and weaving a stylish thread through downtown Manhattan's hippest oases. Last year, circa was the first hot spot. A few months later, the Bowery Bar was the place to be. Café Tabac remains a perennial fallback, and Spy was recently dethroned downtown in favor of the newly opened Wax.

For their parents, who are all looking at the far side of 40, the children represent an important conduit to new ideas and the ever-changing street and club scenes, which spew out concepts that can be captured and then refined in the design

room. "Mom doesn't go out every night and do the whole fashion thing," Johnson, 21, said. "I bring in a lot of opinions of my friends who aren't in fashion, so she feels very connected to what's going on out there."

Several members of the pack became acquainted through fashion. Johnson was shopping for a handbag at Showroom Seven, a wholesale showroom and public relations agency, when she met and became friends with Mandie Erickson, Mandie's mother, Karen Erickson, is a co-owner of the company.

Mandie Erickson's best friend is Tina Chow, 22, the daughter of the late Tina Chow, the model, jewelry designer and style maven, and the restaurateur Michael Chow. Ms. Chow's stepmother is the designer Eva Chun.

As teenagers, China Chow and Jennifer Posner, whose mother owns J.P. Associates, a fashion consulting office, attended the Lycée Français de New York together. The fact that the brat packers, while in high school, were privy to a world that remained exotic and impenetrable to most of their peers drew them together.

RAVEN Metzner, who has worked for several years as an assistant to his mother, the photographer Sheila Metzner, said he understood the draw.

"I remember being blown away by Todd Oldham's show down on Astor Place," he said. "I couldn't talk about it with my other friends. They didn't have an appreciation of clothing."

It was a brat pack powwow that led to the move last summer by Betsey Johnson company's to its fuchsia pink home on Seventh Avenue. Lulu Johnson was talking with her friend Mandie Erickson about her mother's desire to move the business. Erickson mentioned some vacant space in the building where Showroom Seven is situated, and Betsey Johnson moved in last July.

Lulu Johnson now assists her mother

in design and is the liaison between Betsey Johnson Inc. and the firm that handles its public relations, Showroom Seven. The job is a natural segue from a childhood in which Gymboree time was spent scampering under her mother's cutting-room table, modeling in her runway shows and working in company stores in New York.

The sexy satin shirts and hipster pants that were a part of Betsey Johnson's spring runway show and are now in stores were her daughter's idea. "The shirt-pants thing has been one of the biggest sellers," Betsey Johnson said. "Lulu's a good out-and-about reporter for me. It's really important for me that she stays in touch with our customer."

Like so many in the pack, Gabrielle Karan, who goes by the name Gaby, grew up with lint in her blood. As a child, she was already a familiar face at her mother's design studio. Donna Karan has often said that it was her daughter who inspired her to introduce DKNY, her successful secondary line, in 1988. Gaby Karan was always raiding her mother's closet and putting looks together in the offhand way that was an early earmark of DKNY.

Gaby Karan, 22, joined Donna Karan International in January as an assistant to the company's director of global sourcing. She travels internationally to find fabrics, ideas and factories suitable for the production of the collections.

For her mother's walk down the runway at the end of her last men's-wear show, she picked Karan's choice of white leather jacket in favor of the more-aged cordovan leather look, a choice that made Karan appear on the critical edge of fashion.

"Having a daughter forces you to listen to other music," said Paul Cavaco, a co-fashion director of Harper's Bazaar, whose daughter Cayli, 18, hangs out with Mandie Erickson, Lulu Johnson and Vanessa Salle. "You look at how they're dressed — their interpretation of what's on the runway."

Yin and Yang of Bali Design

By Carol Lutfy

DENPASAR, Bali — The way John Hardy tells it, he's an ex-hippie who made good: a directionless traveler who fell into the jewelry business in 1975 by tracing the logo of a Javanese galvanized-metal maker and reproducing it in sterling silver.

He then moved into what he calls "astrological and mystical jewelry." You know, silver is yin and the metal of the moon; gold is yang and the metal of the sun. When I tried to market it in the United States, my friends told me to take all that sensitive stuff and go back to Bali. He did, gradually reshaping his work into a commercially viable, meticulously crafted line of classically designed jewelry and objects inspired by age-old Balinese silversmithing techniques.

Hardy is one of a growing number of Bali-based Western designers who are gaining international reputations by catering to expensive, off-beat tastes.

The Irish-born Linda Garland was the first to put Bali on the international design map by consulting on interiors for celebrities like David Bowie. The chemist-turned-designer Carlo Pessina gave the island a track record with corporate clients by manufacturing a widely respected line of high-quality coconut and seashell-inlay furniture and accessories.

All are dedicated to Bali's high level of craftsmanship, but they are also aware that the 1990s have finally brought credibility to the island. Two decades after most designers drifted there, Bali has transcended its flaky image — emerging as the current play-

ground of choice for hip CEOs and aging rock stars: Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall were married there; Bowie and Iman celebrated last Christmas there; Richard Branson, the Virgin Group chairman, is a regular.

But mixing business and beautiful people does not always add up to paradise. "Designing the rich and impossible third house that they never use depletes me," says Garland, one of Asia's most sought-after designers. To replenish her spirit, she has established a foundation devoted to exploring the design potential of bamboo.

For his part, Hardy, in villages scattered throughout the island, oversees several hundred Indonesian craftsmen who interpret his straightforward contemporary designs using traditional braiding, weaving and granulation techniques. Hardy describes his design philosophy as back to basics: "The essence of Balinese culture is a respect for ritual objects — for priests, for princes, for dancers, for everybody. My ideal is to make things that will still be around in 500 years."

His first successful product — a classic men's sterling silver oval chain-

woven bracelet (\$1,500), introduced in 1989 — is still a best seller. A more recent jewelry success is a women's 18-karat gold mesh cuff bracelet (\$16,000), which hit the market last March.

Hardy and his wife, Cynthia, live simply. Indeed, it is hard to imagine John and Cynthia Hardy using some of the objects they produce: the large basket weave silver cigar humidifier (\$450), for example; or the retractable sterling silver basket-weave dog leash (\$1,295); or even the armadillo-pattern sterling silver shot glasses (\$200 each).

THAT said, the 45-year-old Canadian-born designer sure seems to know his market. Fruit and flower cutters, made of bamboo and inlaid with silver (\$750), were a hit at Maxfield's in Los Angeles last winter.

In addition to gardening implements, Hardy has broadened his range to include a new baby collection, and a line of home accessories. "If you are building a family and a tradition, then you need a silver water pitcher to pass down through the generations," he says. He neglects to add that it costs \$2,400.

Garland's line of bamboo and textile creations are available at her showroom in Ubud; tel: 62-361-974-027.

Pessina's coconut and seashell home accessories are on sale at the Planet C Shops at the Amankila; tel: 62-361-363-41-333; Intercontinental, 62-361-701-888; and Sheraton Nusa Indah Hotels, 62-361-771-906.

Hardy's jewelry is not sold in Bali. Call 1-800-2-JHARDY in the United States.

Carol Lutfy is a free-lance writer who travels frequently in Asia.



John Hardy is one of a growing number of Bali-based designers who are gaining international reputations.

Hot Color for Men: Gray Pinstripe

By Jonathan Yardley
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It may be true, as poor Ophelia so poignantly avowed, that poor Hamlet was "the glass of fashion and the mold of form," but of virtually no one else — Fred Astaire obviously excepted — could that be said. In a world of eternal uncertainty, you can always go to the bank with this: "Men's fashion" is an oxymoron. The only tone suitable for using the phrase is wry mockery, yet certain persons of the male persuasion insist on taking it as seriously as the Super Bowl.

These days, if one is to believe the shapers and chroniclers of masculine attire, a crisis is upon the coarser sex. Previously notable only for clothing so hum-

drum as to induce terminal ennui among those forced to observe it, men have now burst forth in chromatic display that would blind a peacock. Men who used to go to the office — or to bed, for that matter — in gray suits with white shirts and muted red ties now show up in the likes of "purple gingham shirts and turquoise-striped ties."

The quotation comes from The Wall Street Journal, which in its "Corporate Focus" feature reported last week that "Brooks Brothers is learning to loosen up, and the new look is paying off." It seems that the old gray-flannel mare had somehow managed to miss the train that was taking men into the hot new world of "casual days" at the office, and that it therefore ain't what it used to be. But now Brooks has "updated its product line with khaki pants, casual shirts and a selection of brightly colored shirts and ties," and sales were up 11 percent during the 12 months that ended March 31.

Brooks' gain appears to be Hathaway's loss. That venerable maker of gentlemen's shirts tried desperately to get aboard the "casual days" express, but the train had left the station. The sad result is that the plant in Maine where Hathaway has made dress shirts for more than a century and a half is being shut down by the firm's owner, the Warnaco Group. Five hundred people will be put out of

work, but it is no doubt true, as Warnaco's chief executive officer told The New York Times, that it was "the right thing for the company and the stockholders."

All of which would seem to lead to the sort of lead-pipe-cinch conclusion so beloved by journalists, sociologists and other seekers of instant wisdom: Traditional men's "style" is dead, and the poppin' now rules the roost. Except that this fails to take into account the latest news from Jos. A. Bank, the Maryland clothier that built an empire upon suits that were grayer than gray but then was forced to watch helplessly as that empire began to crumble before the "casual days" onslaught.

AT Bank, business all of a sudden is great. It reported on May 15 that overall sales of men's clothing were up 10.6 percent in the first quarter of 1996 from a year earlier. This was attributable not to the various clumsy attempts at trendiness that Bank has undertaken in recent years, but to strong sales — mirabile dictu! — of men's suits. The firm's chairman told The Baltimore Sun, "We have more and more examples of people who are much more comfortable with tailored clothing because it's not a hassle and it's safe."

Spoken like a real man. This person — his name is Timothy F. Finley, and long

may he wave — apparently has grasped an essential truth about the sex of which he is a member, to wit, that clothing may be necessitated by edicts of prudish conventions, but it is to be given as little attention as possible. Much the same was said by his counterpart at Brooks Brothers, Joseph Gromek: "Our customers shop in multiple purchases; they want to buy 12 shirts at one time. Men tend to shop this way. Right? 'I'll take a dozen shirts. White, of course.'"

One of the many oddities of the male sex is that the chief effort expended by its members in the fashion department is to look as much alike as is humanly possible. Thus we have not merely the enduring phenomenon of the allegedly antiquated gray flannel suit but also the apotheosis of male conformity, evening wear. There is more to be learned about the differences between men and women from a single evening at a formal occasion than from a lifetime's reading of Sigmund Freud, Harlequin Ellis and Margaret Mead. Let's just say it's the difference between a penguin and a flamingo, and leave it at that.

Because men are so intent upon looking like cogs in a machine — whether they be executives in pinstripes and single cuts or auto mechanics in Harley T-shirts and shoulder-length mops — persons of a gambling inclination are herewith advised to put their money on suits rather than "casual days." The boys may be having a bit of a fling these days — expressing their feminine sides, as the priests of pop psychology would have it — but all yearnings to the contrary notwithstanding, boys will be boys, which means that sooner or later they'll get back where they belong, in their monkey suits.

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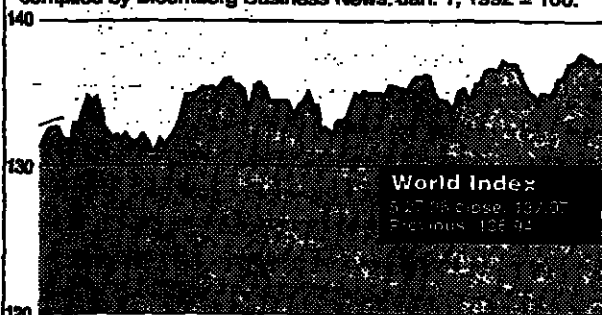
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Lacking Rules, China Plays Difficult Market Game

By Kevin Murphy
International Herald Tribune

BEIJING—Five years after China decided to roll the dice of capitalism and open its first stock markets in Shanghai and Shenzhen, its leaders still cannot decide on the rules of the game.

Stalled somewhere in Beijing's vast bureaucracy is a comprehensive securities law that is intended to replace the hodgepodge of measures now in place — and tap the hundreds of billions of dollars in investment capital needed to usher the Chinese economy into the 21st century.

Indeed, those involved in the drafting process say they cannot even predict when the work might be done.

Moreover, the limbo in which the new rules are mired suits some people just fine, given the debate now under way here about the role of modern capital markets, with their implicit threat to Beijing's ability to control the economy.

"A small number of people still wonder if China needs to develop these markets at all," conceded Dong Fureng, vice chairman of the Financial and Economic Committee of the National People's Congress. His view was echoed in interviews throughout China with government officials, securities market executives and investors.

Yet according to many of those inter-

viewed, China has reached a critical point in the effort to reform its financial system.

"If the Communist Party cannot deliver on the economic front, it will not survive," said one foreign banker based in Beijing.

But a lot of the leadership still balks at allowing more power to transfer to a system they genuinely don't understand.

The delay has not been caused by a lack of business. More than 300 Chinese companies now have sold shares to domestic and international investors, trading at prices set by supply and demand.

Thousands more companies across China would like to do the same but have been

hampered by a lack of stock markets mature enough to handle them and by government caution despite the markets' potential to help reform state enterprises.

Despite the delays, there have been some recent changes in the way the Chinese government sells bonds to the public to finance its growing fiscal deficits, and these have also allowed the market to take over part of the state's traditional role here of determining the cost of borrowing money and establishing benchmark interest rates.

It is this sort of evolution in stock and government bond markets that could help build the kind of sophisticated capital markets capable of turning national savings into in-

See CHINA, Page 13

中国资本市场 Inventing China's Capital Markets

First of three articles.

Taiwan's Central Bank Lets Its Dollar Decline

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TAIPEI—Taiwan's central bank on Monday abandoned its policy of defending the currency to slide to a seven-year low against the U.S. dollar.

After doggedly defending the currency at 27.500 Taiwan dollars to the U.S. dollar since 1990, the central bank did not intervene as the U.S. dollar rose to close in Taipei at 27.641 Taiwan dollars. The central bank confirmed that it had not acted, describing market order as "normal."

Analysts said central bankers were betting that a weak currency would spur exports.

"The central bank is letting go of its defense to stimulate the economy by boosting exports," said Annie An, senior analyst at Our Commercial Bank Corp.

"They want the economy reinvigorated and letting the currency go is one way to do it," said Eric Nickerson, head of currency research at Bank of America in Hong Kong.

Mr. Nickerson also speculated that Taiwan wanted to save its reserves to defend the currency if the political situation with China deteriorated. The country spent huge amounts to stabilize its currency when China mounted military exercises off the coast in March.

With those tensions eased and

inflation low, a devaluation could be seen by the central bank as fostering clear economic benefits rather than an unwanted psychological blow.

"Now, the political situation has changed and they want to stimulate exports," said a foreign exchange manager with Chemical Bank, who asked not to be named. "The decline is just in line with underlying economic conditions."

Taiwan's export growth slowed to 8.2 percent during the first four months of 1996. That compares with a gain of 20 percent for all of 1995, the Finance Ministry has said.

Slower export growth has hurt industrial production and the economy. The Economics Ministry said last week that industrial production during the first four months of 1996 fell 0.25 percent from a year earlier.

The central bank on Thursday made quarter-point cuts in its key interest rates as part of a package of economic stimulus measures. Shen Yuan-dong, the central bank governor, vowed then to let market forces have their way with the dollar.

"The influence on exporters from this will be big," said Chou Ji, chief of the Center for Economic Forecasting at the government-backed Chung-lin Institute for Economic Research. "It will really help competitiveness." (Reuters, Bloomberg)

Family Feud Over Rum Accounts

Bacardi Heiress Stirs Up Tax Inquiry Into Offshore Funds

By Diana B. Henriques
New York Times Service

NEW YORK—The smiles beam out from the old photograph: four generations of the Bacardi family, gathered on a lush Cuban terrace in the late 1950s, looking forward to a wealthy future nourished by an ocean of rum.

At the lower left-hand corner of the photo, sitting on the lap of her radiant mother with her beaming grandmother just a few feet away, is a beautiful but solemn toddler named Lisette Arellano.

Today, a grown-up Lisette and her second husband, Randolph J. Bisson, are angrily suing her mother and siblings in a Dade County court near Miami. In the process, they are throwing an unwanted spotlight on the liquor empire that her great-grandfather founded.

The Bissons say the family members have joined with a Citibank subsidiary and the president and chief executive of Bacardi Ltd., Manuel Jorge Cutillas, to illegally deny Mrs. Bisson her fair share of her grandmother's estate, which the Bissons estimate at \$200 million.

The tools used in this conspiracy, the Bissons say, are offshore trust funds set up in the Bahamas, the home of Bacardi, a business that

is now worth at least \$2.2 billion. Lawyers for the bank and for Mrs. Bisson's estranged family flatly deny the accusations. Her brother says the Bissons are using these charges to extort a financial settlement from the family.

But the bitter fight and the paper trail it has uncovered has cut through the sugar-cane curtain that has hidden the Bacardi family's business and personal affairs since the closely held company went completely private in 1992.

Indeed, the battle has caught the attention of tax authorities, who seem curious about whether appropriate taxes have been paid on the money that flowed in and out of the family trust funds.

Mr. Bisson helped draw Internal Revenue Service attention to the Bacardi empire in the first place, a move his wife's family sees as a way to add pressure on them to settle. He says, however, that he is simply doing his duty as a taxpayer, even if his own wife's trust funds come under scrutiny.

Against this backdrop, the Bacardi clan will convene Thursday at an enclave in the Bahamas for the company's annual meeting.

The Bacardi story is shiny from frequent handling: the founder, Facundo Bacardi y Maso, bought a

See BACARDI, Page 12

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

Britain Losing Sight of the EU Convoy

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON—As it steers its uneasy and sometimes stormy course toward closer unity, the flotilla of West European nations has traditionally sailed at the speed of the slowest ship.

To keep the convoy together, the rules of the European Union require that its main navigational bearings be agreed by all, and there is no provision for leaving a mutinous crew behind.

The slowest and most recalcitrant ship has usually been the one under British command—a creaky, wooden-hulled sailing vessel with charts dating from the 19th century, its compass shattered in World War II.

Others have used their national vetoes to give the flotilla an uneven touch on the helm: Greece to block aid to Turkey, Luxembourg to defend its tax status, France to protect its agricultural interests. But for nearly a quarter of a century, Britain has been the biggest and most constant drag on the convoy's progress.

Now, in anger over the EU ban on British beef exports and in the hope of scoring some desperately needed political points at home, Prime Minister John Major is indiscriminately applying the veto to virtually every policy within reach—as if he were making some kind of grand Churchillian gesture.

Nothing could be more ridiculous.

The health scare over British beef is entirely Britain's own fault. It is an unworthy and demeaning issue on which to challenge the rest of Europe.

But Mr. Major's latest folly is not just about beef. It is a culmination of years of frustration at being a member of a club to which—for reasons of history, culture and geography—Britain still does not really belong.

When Winston Churchill called for a United States of Europe after World

Britain has made no effort to evaluate its role in the 21st century or to analyze the implications of its insular policies.

War II, he did not mean to include his own country. A later Conservative prime minister, Harold Macmillan, said the British feel different from other Europeans "in our bones."

Leaders of both main British parties since the mid-1970s have shamelessly pandered to those staid feelings. By persistently making "Europe" the enemy, they have brought out the worst in the British nature and fostered the brutish patriotism of the soccer hooligan.

They have foolishly judged the value of EU membership on the shortest-term basis possible, like Wall Street brokers assessing a company's quarterly re-

port. They have made no effort to evaluate Britain's role in the 21st century or to analyze the longer-term implications of their negative, insular policies.

The tragedy is that so many other Europeans for so long wanted British leadership and the contribution that Britain at its best could bring—its pragmatism and common sense, its world experience, its deep attachment to parliamentary democracy and free trade. They have been extraordinarily patient with Britain's infuriating foibles.

But the days of the slow-ship syndrome are ending. The convoy is starting to split up, and few people now care if the mutinous British vessel follows or not.

One group of countries is already moving faster than the rest in dismantling border controls on travelers, another is likely to press ahead with the planned single currency.

Ad hoc cooperation in other areas may follow, and once the EU expands to 25 or 30 members in the years ahead, there is no way the slower countries could, or should be allowed to hold the faster ones back.

Nor should the others pin too many hopes on Tony Blair, the leader of the opposition Labor Party, the British ship's presumed next captain. Mr. Blair would bring a fresh and perhaps more enthusiastic crew. But his sailors would probably soon squabble as bitterly as Mr. Major's. He is unlikely to find the support to commission a swifter ship.

The Netherlander

Your Dutch Intelligence Service

The Netherlander is a comprehensive English-language business weekly about the Netherlands, written especially for the non-Dutch reader who needs and wants to keep abreast of the country's economic and corporate developments.

It is published by the Netherlands' leading financial daily, *Het Financieel Dagblad*, and distributed jointly in the Netherlands with the *International Herald Tribune*, "the world's daily newspaper."

The weekly enables the reader to understand the Dutch business community and issues it faces, without requiring a command of the Dutch language. The Netherlander has therefore quickly become essential reading for expatriate staff working in the Netherlands, for foreign-based managers with Dutch operations and for anyone—from equity analysts to risk managers—who needs to know what makes the Dutch economy tick.

The Netherlander is the only English-language publication which gives you—every week—full coverage of economic and corporate developments, feature articles on specific industrial sectors, profiles of leading companies and corporate personalities, and market data from the

stock and options exchanges. It also provides a weekly review of politics and the arts, and a "what's on" cultural agenda.

The Netherlander is, in short, a Dutch intelligence service for the non-Dutch businessman or woman.

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The Netherlander

The business weekly

PUBLISHED BY HET FINANCIEEL DAGBLAD AMSTERDAM

Distribution in association with the International Herald Tribune

The Netherlander Herald Tribune HET FINANCIEEL DAGBLAD

THE NETHERLANDER

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

May 27 / May 24

Cross Rates

Australian 1.745 1.745 1.745 1.745 1.745 1.745 1.745 1.745 1.745 1.745

Brazilian 1.528 1.528 1.528 1.528 1.528 1.528 1.528 1.528 1.528 1.528

Canadian 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515

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French 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515

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UK 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515

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Yen 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515 1.515

Other data from Reuters and AP.

Source: HBG Bank (Frankfurt), Deutsche Bank (Frankfurt), BNP Paribas (Paris), Citibank (New York), HSBC (London), JPMorgan Chase (New York), etc.

Source: Reuters.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Bad Loans Force Losses at Japan's Big Trust Banks

Continued from Page 12

TOKYO — Japan's 10 major trust and long-term credit banks purged their books on Monday, posting massive losses for the first time in more than 50 years as they took charges to dispose of trillions of yen in bad loans.

Losses for the seven trust banks and three long-term credit banks totaled 1,805 trillion yen (\$16.08 billion) in the year to March 31. The banks did their balance sheets of about 4.5 trillion yen in uncollectible loans by putting aside reserves to cover losses when they foreclosed on delinquent borrowers.

The losses came after seven of Japan's 11 city banks said Friday that bad-loan write-offs wiped out record operating profits last year.

If it were not for bad loans, most of which were left over from the financial excesses of the 1980s, the nation's 21 biggest banks would have had a better year. Operating profit, or earnings from core businesses of lending, foreign exchange and bond holdings, soared.

"We finished the most difficult bad-loan write-offs," said Takashi Uehara, managing director of Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, which posted a loss of 67 billion yen after a profit of 13.8 billion yen a year earlier. "From now on we need to tackle debt at affiliated lenders. It's hard to say when we will finish completely writing off the loans."

Long-term credit banks, which also include Nippon Credit Bank and Industrial Bank of Japan, specialize in business loans of five years and longer. Japan's trust banks manage pension money and offer investors a guaranteed minimum return with some control over investment strategy.

At the long-term credit banks, operating profit soared 101 percent, while operating profit rose 48 percent at the trust banks. Low interest rates helped lift earnings on bond holdings and cut borrowing costs, widening profit margins.

Two of the seven trust banks, Mitsui Trust & Banking Co. and Yasuda Trust & Banking Co., said they would make further write-offs for bad loans in the 1996-97 financial year.

The other trust banks — Mitsubishi Trust & Banking Corp., Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co., Toyo Trust & Banking Co. and Chuo Trust & Banking Co. — said they had written off their bad loans last year.

The three long-term credit banks projected that operating profit would decline an aggregate 27 percent this year.

Trust banks, on the other hand, said operating profits would rise this year — not because they expect interest rates to fall but because they expect to continue reaping the benefits of last year's falling rates. (Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

Bailing Out of Bombay

Stocks Fall as Government Faces Removal

By Neel Chowdhury
Special to the Herald Tribune

BOMBAY — Indian stocks fell 1.5 percent Monday as Parliament began debating a confidence motion that was expected to remove the country's newly elected Hindu nationalist government.

The fall came as investors and executives feel increasingly vulnerable to the economic policies of the group now seen as the successor to the Hindu nationalists: a loose center-left alliance of 14 other parties known as the United Front.

The Hindu nationalists, or Bharatiya Janata Party, are 60 seats shy of the 299 votes necessary to survive a no-confidence vote. Most analysts expect the government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to become the shortest-lived in India's history when the vote ends Monday night or Tuesday.

Mr. Vajpayee and his party have been trying to woo skeptical industry leaders and establish an image of moderation. Just one day after he was sworn in, Finance Minister Jaswant Singh promised to double India's annual rate of foreign direct investment, to \$4 billion, by simplifying the onerous approval process and offering tax incentives for investments in public works and technology.

For investors in India's capital markets, Mr. Singh announced that previous restrictions on the use of funds raised offshore by Indian companies would be abolished. As a result, Indian companies, some of whose expansion plans have been choked by local interest rates as high as 20 percent, would be likely to rush to raise funds from international markets.

"The BJP is trying to establish their moderation and governability with big business," said Abheek Barua, a market strategist with SSKI Securities in Bombay. But with the United Front, a widely diverse coalition of socialist, casteist, and regionally based parties, now poised to take power if the Hindu nationalists fall, the government's business-friendly pitch is being largely ignored.

More urgent questions are being raised by the

unclear economic policies of the coalition, particularly its stance on solving India's ballooning debt.

Economists predict India's government deficit will exceed 6 percent of gross domestic product in this financial year. That has exacerbated India's high-interest-rate environment. In response, many large corporate groups are putting their profits into cash or highly liquid securities instead of reinvesting it into their businesses.

"Yes, we are a highly liquid company," said S.S. Kelkar, executive director of Bombay Dyeing & Manufacturing Co., a company with a market capitalization of about \$500 million that has kept its cash reserves at about \$150 million.

"The liquidity situation could very well get worse" under a United Front government, "but we won't be affected," Mr. Kelkar said. "We can easily meet our funding needs through our own cash reserves."

Despite the prevailing uncertainty, Mr. Kelkar ruled out the likelihood of India regressing to the days when businesses needed government permission each time they wanted to increase production or lay off workers.

But for small Indian businesses, which depend on bank credit for survival, the United Front's perceived complacency on the debt issue is more alarming.

According to a World Bank study, roughly one third of India's public-sector deficit has been accrued by state governments. Among the biggest spenders are the states of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, led respectively by Laloo Prasad Yadav and Chandrababu Naidu, key figures in the United Front coalition.

Both leaders have said they will press for more funds to replenish their empty state coffers, a stance that concerns analysts looking for an indication of the likely new government's fiscal stance.

Foreign portfolio investors, who poured an estimated \$330 million into Indian stock markets this year, also have reason to be concerned, analysts said.

"The market will definitely respond adversely," to a United Front government, said Nareesh Panjani, a dealer with James Capel B&K Securities in Bombay. "But just how adversely will be decided by who occupies key positions in the cabinet."

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225
12000	2500	20000
11500	2400	19000
11000	2300	18000
10500	2200	17000
10000	2100	16000
9500	2000	15000
9000	1900	14000
8500	1800	13000
8000	1700	12000
7500	1600	11000
7000	1500	10000
6500	1400	9000
6000	1300	8000
5500	1200	7000
5000	1100	6000
4500	1000	5000
4000	900	4000
3500	800	3000
3000	700	2000
2500	600	1000
2000	500	0
1500	400	0
1000	300	0
500	200	0
0	100	0

Source: Reuters

Very briefly:

• Tata Engineering & Locomotive Co., India's largest truck maker, said its net profit rose 66 percent to 5.3 billion rupees (\$151 million) in the year ended March 31 as a shortage of railway wagons boosted demand for its trucks.

• Birla VXL Ltd., the Indian textile manufacturer, said its net profit for the year ended March 31 fell 25 percent to 210.2 million rupees, partly due to increases in depreciation write-offs, interest charges and raw-wool prices.

• Kazakhstan and Malaysia signed three agreements to promote economic, trade and investment ties, Malaysia's national Bernama news agency reported.

• Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co. of Japan said its pretax profit for the year ended March 31 rose 34 percent, to 42.69 billion yen (\$398 million).

• Japanese makers of wire and cable saw their shares rise Monday after the Construction Ministry said it planned to build a network of optical cables as part of an information highway.

• Hitachi Zosen Corp., the Japanese heavy-machinery company, said increasing orders helped its pretax profit for the year ended March 31 rise 26 percent, to 32.36 billion yen.

• LG Group of South Korea said it planned to invest \$10 billion in China over the next 10 years in order to make the country its primary overseas manufacturing base.

• Vietnam's consumer price index has fallen by 0.5 percent so far in May, putting the inflation indicator on target for its first monthly decline since March 1994.

• Broken Hill Pty. is on track for a June 1 separation of its minerals business into two companies, BHP Minerals and BHP Copper. (Reuters, AFP, Bloomberg)

BHP to Get New Chairman

Bloomberg Business News

MELBOURNE — Broken Hill Proprietary Co. said Monday that Jerry Ellis would succeed Brian Loton as chairman when Mr. Loton retires in May 1997.

Mr. Ellis, 58, will step down as chief executive officer of BHP's minerals division on July 1, 1996.

"He will make an excellent chairman," said David Rubin, an analyst at HSBC James Capel. "He has done an excellent job of building the minerals division."

John Prescott, 55, will continue in his position as BHP's managing director and chief executive officer. Analysts were quick to point out that the new appointment would result in Mr. Ellis's leapfrogging Mr. Prescott to the position of chairman.

Oki Warns of Falling Demand for Chips

Bloomberg Business News

TOKYO — Oki Electric Industry Co. said Monday its profit for the year to March rose to a record as demand for computer chips soared, but the company warned that earnings would drop sharply in the current year as chip demand slumps.

Oki said current, or pretax, profit rose 17 percent, to 48.37 billion yen (\$451.6 million). Sales rose 4 percent, to 556.35 billion yen.

Worldwide semiconductor sales grew 44 percent, to \$147 billion last year, according to IDC Japan Ltd., a unit of the American market research company International Data Corp.

But the Semiconductor Industry Association, a U.S. industry group, said the world chip market would grow just 6.7 percent this year, while sales of dynamic random-access memory chips, Oki's main product, are likely to fall 2.3 percent.

For the year to March 1997, Oki forecast current profit of 20 billion yen, a decline of nearly 60 percent. The company said sales would fall 5 percent, to 530 billion yen.

Separately, Yoshihiro Sakamoto, a top Japanese trade official said Tokyo may agree to talks with Washington over access to Japan's semiconductor market following the conclusion of industry-level discussions.

EUROPE

Takeover Bid Is Expected For British Water Firm

Reuters

LONDON — Scottish Power PLC and another unnamed company were expected to make a joint takeover bid for Southern Water PLC, industry sources said Monday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Scottish Power was likely to make a statement on Tuesday regarding a £1.3 billion (\$1.96 billion) offer for Southern Water, which has been a target of other expansion-minded companies recently.

Southern Water confirmed it had been approached but refused to name the bidder. Sources close to the industry indicated that an agreed bid was preferred.

Industry analysts said the French utility Compagnie Générale des Eaux and Britain's Southern Electricity PLC had also considered buying Southern Water.

Scottish Power shares closed at 336 pence on Friday, while Southern Water shares closed at 681 pence. Financial markets in Britain were closed Monday.

A source close to Scottish Power said the bid was part of the company's multi-utility strategy. It already owns Scottish Telecom and Caledonian Gas, and last July it completed a hostile £1.1 billion takeover of the regional electricity company Manweb PLC.

A bid for Southern Water likely would be reviewed by Britain's Monopolies and Mergers Commission for anti-trust review, analysts said.

Italian Publishers Enjoy a Recovery

As Ad Sales Rise and Costs Drop, New Magazines Hit the Stands

Bloomberg Business News

MILAN — When Paolo Giletti set up a new publishing company last year, his optimism seemed out of step with the business.

Souring paper prices, labor disputes, shrinking readership and declines in advertising spending had made the previous three years lean ones for Italian publishers.

Earlier this year, Italian Publishing Association warned members they were headed for another year of losses unless they made drastic changes, particularly in distribution.

But the doomsayers were wrong and Mr. Giletti was right. Advertising spending in the first quarter of 1996 rose 9.5 percent, compared with the similar quarter a year ago, according to figures from Nielsen Media Research.

In March, three new monthly

magazines hit newsstands as publishers decided that the best way to stimulate sales was to offer new products. Paper prices are down and Progetto Editoriale, Mr. Giletti's company, seems poised to take advantage of the rebound.

"This is the year of the turnaround," Mr. Giletti said. "New magazine launches are the first sign of a renaissance."

The market seems to agree. Shares of the publishing company Editoriale La Repubblica SpA have risen about 20 percent in the past month as rising advertising revenue and falling newspaper prices have sparked hopes of a rise in profit.

Nielsen predicts advertising spending will rise 7 percent in Italy this year, up from 5.6 percent growth in 1995. Spending had fallen in the two previous years.

Italy's largest publisher, Arnoldo

Mondadori Editore SpA is launching two new magazines and restyling three existing ones over the next three months, said Ernesto Mauri, the head of periodicals for the company.

"We have to carry out our strategy of broadening our product mix in an effort to get new readers and new advertisers," he said.

Though poised for recovery, publishers have failed to break the grip on distribution of one of Italy's most powerful monopolies — the corner newsstand.

Newsstand owners have protected their distribution monopoly so tenaciously that newspapers and magazines cannot be bought in hotels, service stations — or, until recently, supermarkets.

When the supermarket chain Esselunga SpA tried to sell newspapers, the owner of a newsstand in

Arezzo tried to get the city government to revoke the chain's license to sell newspapers. Esselunga sued and won the case, and now sells papers in 11 of its 85 stores.

Rather than wait for Parliament to pass legislation opening new distribution channels, publishers have decided to cut costs, restructure and launch new products to take advantage of the recovery in ad sales.

"There's been a certain poverty of entrepreneurship in the publishing business in the past few years," said Leonardo Mondadori, president of the publishing house and grandson of its founder.

"We need to see more investment in technology and products," he said. "The crisis won't be resolved by asking for state subsidies or crying into our soup."

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
2600	3900	2200
2500	3800	2100
2400	3700	2000
2300	3600	1900
2200	3500	1800
2100	3400	1700
2000	3300	1600
1900	3200	1500
1800	3100	1400
1700	3000	1300
1600	2900	1200
1500	2800	1100
1400	2700	1000
1300	2600	900
1200	2500	800
1100	2400	700
1000	2300	600
900	2200	500
800	2100	400
700	2000	300
600	1900	200
500	1800	100
400	1700	0
300	1600	0
200	1500	0
100	1400	0
0	1300	0

Source: Reuters

Very briefly:

• Heineken NV's purchase of the brewer Birra Moretti SpA is being investigated by Italian antitrust authorities; the purchase of Birra Moretti from the Belgian company Interbrew SA gives Heineken a 38 percent market share in Italy.

• Poland plans to give General Motors Corp. a package of incentives including a 10-year exemption from corporate income tax; GM plans a 500 million Deutsche mark (\$771.4 million) plant in Poland that will employ 2,000.

• Ladbroke PLC has sold its Langham Hilton hotel in London to Great Eagle Holdings Ltd. of Hong Kong for £100 million (\$151.2).

• Daewoo Corp. of South Korea plans to invest \$53 million in a 51 percent stake in a venture with the state-run Mangalia shipyard in Romania.

• Bulgaria won a pledge for fresh loans from the International Monetary Fund on condition that it continue market reforms; the amount was not disclosed.

• Israel's central bank is to raise its discount rate in June to 15.5 percent from 14.8 percent. (AFP, AP, Reuters)

CHINA: Beijing Takes Halting Steps to Bolster Its Markets but Capital Flows Still Lag

Continued from Page 11

vestments the country desperately needs to modernize and lift living standards of its 1.2 billion people.

But those advances also mean a loss of direct government and Communist Party control over society that would have been almost unimaginable in China a few years ago, and even now they are opposed in many quarters of the Chinese establishment.

Running the economy through indirect influence over the financial system rather than by direct orders is a difficult idea for long-time central planners to accept, officials involved in the reform process say.

"You can see from our most recent Five-Year Plan that the government be-

lieves it should control the economy through the banks," said Mr. Dong. "Let the banks pool the money and make the investment decisions."

"If these types of decisions are made in the securities markets, the government's role in controlling the economy will diminish. But without the capital markets, a move toward the market economy is out of the question."

Yet agreement on the exact steps to take and the role of foreign capital in the process has proved elusive in a period marked by caution as government and Communist Party officials wonder what will happen after the passing of Deng Xiaoping, the country's ailing 91-year-old senior leader.

More than one-third of the Chinese state enterprises that employ tens of millions of workers are unlikely to survive

without continued subsidies, and those that are healthier find it difficult to raise funds in an environment where credit has been tightened.

At the same time, state-owned Chinese banks now holding nearly 4 trillion yuan (\$480 billion) in savings accounts find their path to reform hampered by the need to continue lending to ailing companies and by fears of losing deposits if savers find better investment alternatives.

More efficient channels for turning savings into investments can help China out of its dilemma, but only if the leadership is willing to take a back seat to market forces — and only if government agencies such as the People's Bank of China, the Ministry of Finance and the China Securities Regulatory Commission, among many others, can agree on a

comprehensive framework for continued progress.

"You cannot understand China's capital markets from talking to one agency; there are many agencies involved," said Li Keeping, division chief of the department of macro-adjustment and control systems and the State Commission for Restructuring Economic Systems in Beijing. "That is one of our big problems."

China's pressing need for capital, moreover, may soon eclipse the amount of funds that official international lenders have available to invest in China, according to World Bank estimates, because many such lenders are already close to their own limits on exposure to the Chinese market.

At the same time, lending by foreign commercial banks has been sluggish be-

cause of the high degree of perceived risk in private-sector projects in China.

All the while, a rapidly aging population is demanding that China quickly establish privately funded pension plans to provide retirement and other benefits that which the state can no longer afford to pay. The ratio of workers to such dependents in China, now 9 to 1, is projected to shrink to 3 to 1 in 30 to 40 years.

All of this makes it necessary to quickly create a financial system with market-determined interest rates, extensive savings pools and far greater investment choices.

"Without rapid development of its domestic capital markets," said Pieter Bontier, chief of the World Bank's mission in Beijing, "it will become increasingly difficult to mobilize sufficient long-term resources needed for infrastructure development necessary to sustain development and the reforms."

But wariness based on practical and

ideological concerns about coping with private capital flows and foreign influence has recently brought about a new phase of consolidation in the gains made so far, or a backlash against them, depending on with whom one speaks.

"Whether it is the right time to expand into a new stage of development is still in dispute," said Liu Bo, executive vice president of the Shanghai Stock Exchange. "Some people believe it should only be a time of consolidation after the stock markets have grown for five years."

"Others think that we now have stability in the markets that should be backed up by related developments in other parts of the financial system," Mr. Liu continued. "And the third opinion is that it's time for much greater development right away."

NEXT: Has the pursuit of profit in China's capital markets spun out of Beijing's control?

after 11:50

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS

May 24, 1996

AS - Australian Dollars; AU - Austria
Schillings; BF - Belgium Francs; CA - Canadian
Dollars; DM - Deutsche Mark; DK - Danish
Kroner; D - US Dollars; ECU - European
Currency Unit; FF - French Francs; FM - Fijian
Mark; FL - Dutch florin; Lit - Italian Lira
LF - Luxembourg Franc; p-pence; Ptas
Pesetas; S\$ - Singapore Dollars; SF - Swiss
Francs; Sk - Swedish Kronor; Y - Yen;

The marginal symbols indicate frequency of quotations supplied: (d) - daily; (w) - weekly; (m) - bi-monthly; (f) - fortnightly; (r) - quarterly.

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INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS & MEETINGS

A STRATEGIC BASE FOR WORLD ORGANIZATIONS

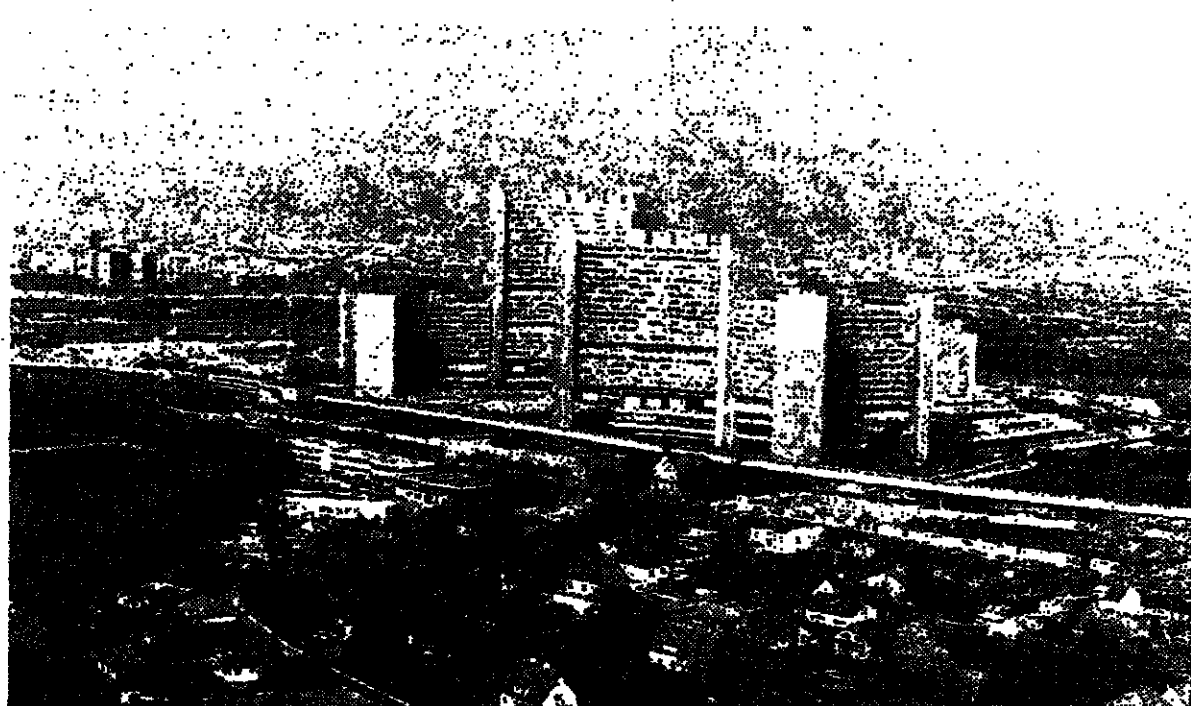
Nuclear power, human rights and the environment are among the issues Vienna-based international bodies are concerned with.

At a time when the United Nations is painfully adjusting to ever-increasing financial constraints, Vienna, home to a number of UN bodies, offers "an oasis of understanding." So said Giorgio Giacomelli, director-general of the UN Office at Vienna, at the signing in November 1995 of a new Seat Agreement to replace the original 1967 Headquarters Agreement.

A home on the Danube Since 1979, UN organizations have had a home on the Danube, in the architecturally striking Vienna International Centre, at a symbolic rent of 1 Austrian schilling a year. More than 3,000 persons from nearly 100 countries work in the building, referred to colloquially as the VIC.

A recent rumor that the United Nations, because of its budget crisis, might decide to pull out of Vienna altogether was quashed outright by the UN secretary-general. In a New York interview with the Vienna daily Die Presse, Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the distribution of UN headquarters sites symbolized the universality of the organization and that there would be no reduction. He was especially grateful that Austria demonstrated its commitment to the world body by paying its UN dues punctually. (The country is one of a small minority of member nations that does so.)

With the departure from Vienna this summer of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Gaza and Amman, and drastic staff cuts at the UN Industrial Development Organization, Vienna is naturally anxious to attract new units and more personnel to the VIC. An obvious choice would be the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization, due to be created later this year after the completion of the Geneva talks on an agreement to halt nuclear-weapons testing. The organization could work in close conjunction with the existing International Atomic Energy Agency, which is located in the VIC. There



The presence of the United Nations, headquartered in the Vienna International Centre since 1979, is a major contributor to the Austrian capital's reputation as an international city.

would also be an obvious synergy with the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. Other UN bodies in Vienna include the International Narcotics Control Board and International Drug Control Program, both of which are calling for increased means to carry out their work.

East-West dialogue

Of growing significance to Austria as a forum for dialogue between East and West at the intergovernmental level is the presence in Vienna of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Current OSCE missions include assisting supervision of the implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia-Herzegovina and working for peace in Chechnya.

Two organizations working in the field of human rights also attract attention to the Austrian capital. The

International Helsinki Federation, acting as an organization umbrella for 28 national committees, keeps a sharp eye on all infringements of Basket Three of the 1975 Helsinki Treaty. The International Press Institute (founded in 1950 in New York), whose main office is now in Vienna, aims to defend press freedom and promote the free exchange of news and the free flow of information. The institute also strives to ensure that journalists can work safely and without interference.

In the immediate vicinity of Vienna, idyllically quartered at Laxenburg in an 18th-century chateau surrounded by a large park, is the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. This think-tank supported by 17 national scientific institutions from Europe, North America and Japan tries to predict the long-term effects on the global environment of greenhouse gases, the de-

struction of rain forests and other man-made aberrations.

For over 30 years, and not always without difficulties, Vienna has also housed the headquarters of OPEC, the (now) 12-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Notwithstanding attractive offers from other countries, notably Germany, OPEC has been persuaded to stay in the Austrian capital, where its conferences invariably attract large numbers of oil-industry and financial journalists.

A sister organization, the OPEC Fund for International Development, resides in a palace on the Ringstrasse, the boulevard that loops around the city center. The fund, which distributes low-cost loans (nearly \$3.5 billion in all so far), mostly to the least-developed countries, is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its operations.

David Herziges

CITY HALL IS SCENE OF YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITY

The importance of the Rathaus, or City Hall, for the Viennese goes beyond its function of providing a home for the city government. It is a meeting place, tourist attraction and host to cultural events. Concerts, films, balls – and especially the Christmas market – are magnets for both the Viennese and visitors to the Austrian capital.

One of the most spectacular events to grace the halls of the imposing neo-Gothic structure is the annual Life Ball, which took place this year on May 11. The glittering, star-studded evening drew nearly 4,000 people (including 400 television and print journalists from all over Europe) in order to raise money for Austria's AIDS organizations. Fashion designer Paco Rabanne put on a sparkling fashion show featuring top international models like Marcus Schenkerberg strutting creations from Rabanne's collections. The city donated the use of the Rathaus, and the evening's proceeds, to be used for fighting AIDS, topped 4 million schillings (\$369,000).

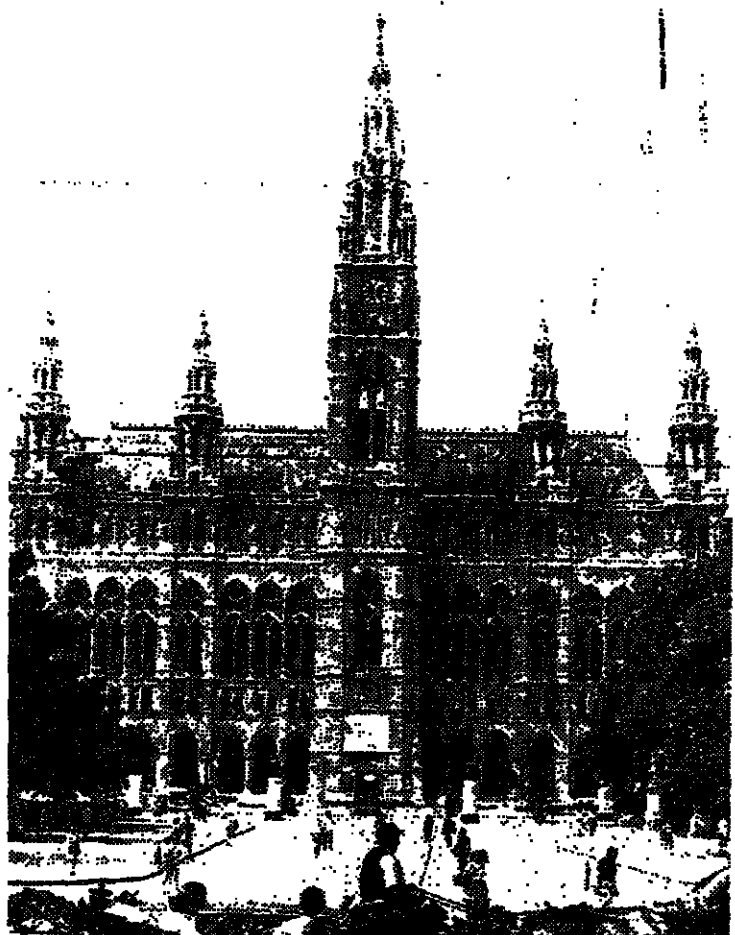
The grand opening of the Wiener Festwochen – the Vienna Festival Weeks – also took place earlier this month on the Rathaus Square. This yearly outdoor event marked the beginning of a month-long concert, dance and

theater extravaganza throughout the city, with performances by the Vienna State Opera Ballet, the Vienna Boys' Choir and the breathtaking operatic coloratura Edita Gruberova.

This summer, an outdoor film festival (July 6-Sept. 1) will be staged on the City Hall Square. Free screenings of films of opera and classical-music concerts will attract an estimated 8,000-10,000 people daily. This year's program boasts films of Verdi's "Rigoletto" and concerts of Beethoven symphonies. Nearby will be an area with more than 15 food stands, "outposts" of Vienna restaurants, selling everything from Indian and Japanese cuisine to Wiener schnitzel – against the backdrop of the Rathaus Park's lush trees, colorful flower gardens and gushing fountains.

Chilly fall and winter temperatures do not hamper events at the Rathaus. In October, a special exhibition devoted to Anne Frank and her famous diary will take place in the Volkshalle. Opening Nov. 16 is the sprawling Christkindlmarkt, Vienna's renowned annual outdoor Christmas market, where handmade arts and crafts, tree ornaments and baked goods are just some of the endless array of holiday treasures on sale.

Darrel Joseph



City Hall Square is the site of summer festivals and the annual Christmas market; the neo-Gothic Rathaus was inaugurated in 1883.

POST-BOOM, HOTELS STRIVE FOR EXTRA STARS

The capital has overcome the downward trend in Austrian tourism, recording a 2.1 percent increase in overnight hotel stays.

City tourism is in the fast lane, reported Egon Smeral of the Austrian Economic Research Institute earlier this year after an inquiry conducted for the Vienna Tourist Board. Hans Mayr, the board's president, said that 1995 had indeed been a distinctly successful year for Vienna tourism, with the city recording 7,050,000 overnight hotel stays, its second-highest number and a 2.1 percent increase compared with 1994.

Unlike Austria as a whole, for which tourist stays have been steadily declining since 1990, the capital has succeeded in attracting an ever-growing number of visitors, especially from Germany, Japan, Switzerland and countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Vienna has been actively promoted since 1993 in Japan, and a television and magazine advertising campaign is now targeting other Asian countries, including Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

Mr. Smeral maintains that Vienna

tends to attract higher-income groups that are not noticeably sensitive to currency fluctuations. This is especially true of the attendance at congresses, a field in which, worldwide, Vienna is second only to Paris, leaving London and New York well behind.

This seemingly satisfactory performance has been accompanied, however, by a certain stagnation in hotel bookings due to an oversupply of rooms. The hotel-building boom in the 1980s and early 1990s has now tailed off. During the past year, hotels have concentrated on improving existing facilities in attempts to add an extra star to their ratings. The inducement is clear: Overall occupancy rates in 1995 for the city's four- and five-star establishments were significantly higher (at 52.9 percent) than for three-star hotels (49.6 percent).

Palatial hotels

Recent additions to the Vienna scene include some interesting ex-

periments. An airline has converted – while completely conserving its facade – a Henckel-Donnersmark town palace on the Ringstrasse into a luxury hotel. Slightly outside the center of town, but still within walking distance, a historic but dilapidated 17th-century hostelry, the Triest, has been turned into a jewel of discreet modern design.

For genuine Old World charm coupled with comfort, it takes a lot to beat the Biedermeier hotel Stühlfhof in the Landstrasser district. The Stühlfhof sits alongside an early 19th-century courtyard dotted with smart boutiques and good restaurants. And in a wonderful Vienna Woods setting, Schloss Wilhelminenberg, a former archducal residence set in its own park, has been transformed into a hotel with an excellent restaurant and conference facilities for up to 200 persons. (Art-lovers will know Wilhelminenberg from the foreground of Oskar Kokoschka's famous bird's-eye view painting of Vienna.)

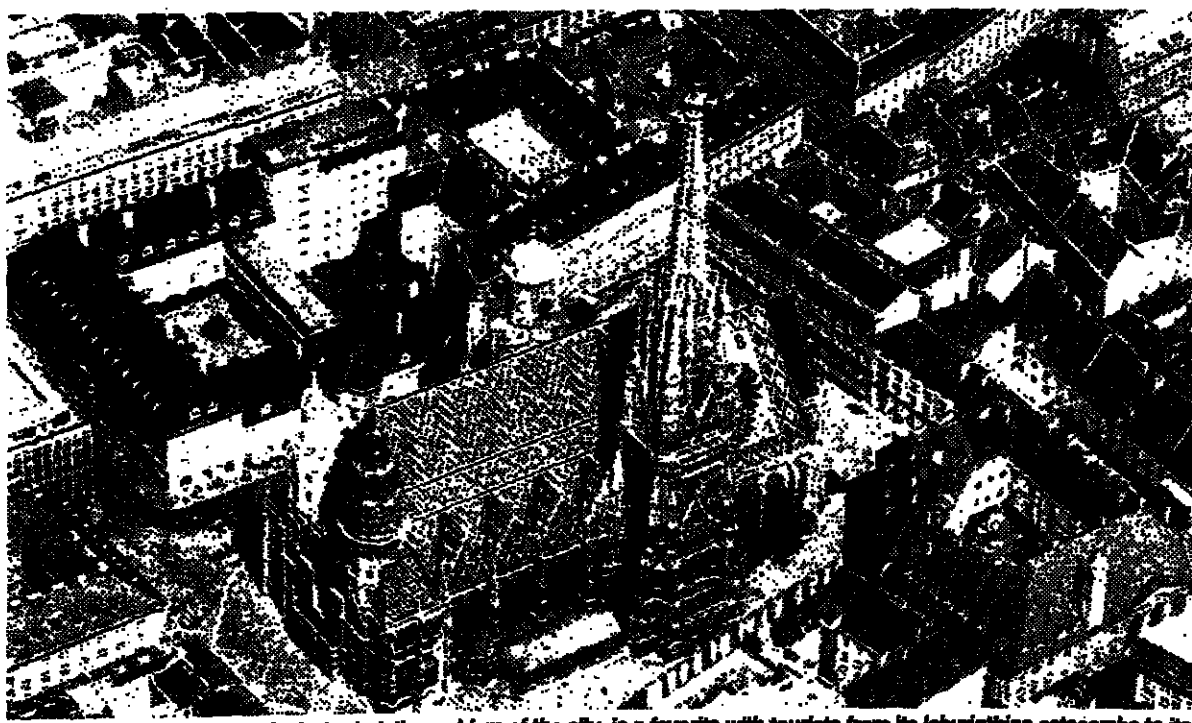
These attractions, together with the year-round cultural calendar, are some of the main reasons tourists give for visiting Vienna – but not the only ones. According to a survey conducted last year, visitors voted Vienna's safety record higher (at 84 percent) than arts and music (83 percent) as their reason for coming to the city on holiday. The fact is that Vienna has so far been spared the rising crime rates and vandalism that characterize day-to-day life in some other cities.

Favorite sites

The latest hit list of sights to see remains topped by Schönbrunn Palace, its park and the adjoining Tiergarten (the world's oldest zoo), followed by the Giant Wheel in Prater Park and the Kunsthistorisches (Art History) Museum. Memorial rooms associated with famous composers (three for Beethoven alone, plus assorted dwellings of Haydn, Mozart and Schubert) continue to be favorites. Musical themes tend to dominate the annual tourist calendar in Vienna. In 1996, however, the year of the Austria Millennium, historical exhibitions take the foreground. Next year, the city will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Schubert. In 1998, Vienna's touristic theme will be the "500 Years of the Vienna Boys' Choir," and the centenary of the death of Johann Strauss will waltz out the century in 1999.

For information, contact: Vienna Tourist Board and Convention Bureau, Obere Augartenstrasse 40, 1025 Vienna. Tel.: (431) 211 14. Fax: (431) 216 8492.

D.H.



The medieval Saint Stephen's Cathedral, the emblem of the city, is a favorite with tourists from its labyrinthine catacombs to its 446-foot (136-meter) spire.

"VIENNA: INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS & MEETINGS"

was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune. It has been sponsored by the city of Vienna.

WRITERS: David Herziges and Darrel Joseph, both based in Vienna.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Mahder.

AUSTRIA CENTER VIENNA

The world meets at Austria Center Vienna, Austria's most versatile conference, event and exhibition venue, the ACV has hosted guests as diverse as Yasser Arafat, president of the autonomous Palestinian Authority, and U.S. entertainer Ray Charles.

The center was built in 1987 at a cost of \$300 million to hold conferences for the Vienna branch of the United Nations. But with four levels and 14 halls, and positioned just eight minutes from downtown Vienna by underground public transportation, the ACV quickly became the hot spot for other international congresses and conventions as well.

The Austria Center Vienna's client list includes such international firms as Coca-Cola and Mercedes-Benz. Nearly 70 percent of the center's clients make repeat bookings. "Clients come back because of our

extensive facilities," says Michael Auerer, managing director of the ACV. "We are service-oriented and cater to all client needs."

Translation facilities for up to nine languages are available and can be put to use in any of the meeting halls, including the largest, which seats 4,300 people. In-house catering is also provided.

The largest international conference held at the ACV, the UN World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993, had more than 15,000 delegates in attendance. UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and President Thomas Klestil of Austria opened the event.

The Austria Center Vienna has held nearly 1,400 events since its opening in 1987. Bookings run well into the 21st century, underscoring the importance of the center to Vienna's reputation as a leading conference destination; the Austrian capital was ranked second, after Paris, in 1994 by the Union of International Associations in Brussels.

Future ACV activities will include the First Congress of the World Council for Psychotherapy in July, the European Congress of Radiology in March 1997 and the Print and Publishing Conference and Exhibition in February 1998.

D.J.

WORLD ROUNDUP



England's Alistair Brown hitting out on the way to his century.

England Beats India

CRICKET Alistair Brown, playing only his third innings for England, made a match-winning century against India in the final limited overs match Monday at Old Trafford. Brown, selected for his attacking style, hit 118 as England won by four wickets to take the rain-plagued series, 2-0.

England, two for one off in reply to India's 236 for four from 50 overs when rain halted play on Sunday, secured victory at 239 for six with seven balls to spare. (Reuters)

Last-Kick Victory

FOOTBALL Paul McCallum kicked a 46-yard field goal with one second left to give the Scottish Claymores a 20-17 victory over the Frankfurt Galaxy in the World League of American Football. Frankfurt had tied the game with 57 seconds left on Brad Bretz's 49-yard touchdown pass to Jay Kearney. (AP)

Galaxy Glitters

SOCCER Harut Karapetyan scored twice and Eduardo Hurtado scored the winning goal with 22 minutes left as the Los Angeles Galaxy beat the Columbus Crew, 3-2, to remain Major League Soccer's only undefeated team. (AP)

Velez Sarsfield's goalkeeper, José Luis Chilavert, scored his second goal of the season as his team beat Lanús, the Argentine league leaders, 5-1.

Zaina Holds On to Win

CYCLING Enrico Zaina, of the Carrera team, won the ninth stage of the Giro d'Italia on Monday after a break over the last 15 of the 184-kilometer stage from Naples to Figgini. Zaina escaped with Alex Gontchenkov. After the Ukrainian had a puncture, Zaina had to ride alone and barely made it to the line ahead of a group containing the race leader Davide Rebellin. (Reuters)



Enrico Zaina winning the Giro d'Italia's ninth stage Monday.

On a Soggy Paris Day, Seles Sails to Victory
A Masterful Victory for Sampras, And a Painful Defeat for Leconte

By Christopher Clarey
Special to the Herald Tribune

PARIS — Monica Seles's first day back on French Open soil did not begin auspiciously. The weather has been foul of late in Paris, and it was foul again on Monday as Seles strolled onto this stadium's newest show court for the ceremony to rename it after her favorite player, Suzanne Lenglen.

Drizzle fell on her brown hair and suspect left shoulder. The stands were less than half full, and when the official accompanying her announced in French that Seles would now say a few words in French, she initially spoke in English.

She recovered quite nicely, however. And by the time this blustery, soggy day came to a close, Seles was back on familiar Grand Slam territory and comfortably into the second round with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over a Frenchwoman, Caroline Dhenin.

Seles did not serve at full speed because of her lingering shoulder injury, but her two-handed groundstrokes were typically overpowering and considerably more accurate than in Madrid last week. Against Dhenin, ranked 168th, that was more than good enough.

"Hopefully, she was watching me play today; it would mean a lot to me," Seles said.

The spectator in question was Lenglen, the cognac-sipping, overhead-smashing Frenchwoman whose flashy game and lifestyle made her an international icon in the 1920s.

Seles has long been a fan, and when the decision was made to rebaptize the court in the late Lenglen's honor, the tournament organizers thought it a more symbolic place for Seles's return than

the center court where she won three consecutive titles in 1990, 1991 and 1992.

Seles, who missed the last three French Opens after being stabbed in April 1993, clearly agreed with the decision.

"Just thinking that this court is named after somebody that I really love, and I'm playing my first match coming back on it, it's in some way a new beginning," she said. "You just move on really, but it was really meaningful to put those things together. Maybe it was like somebody was looking at me from above."

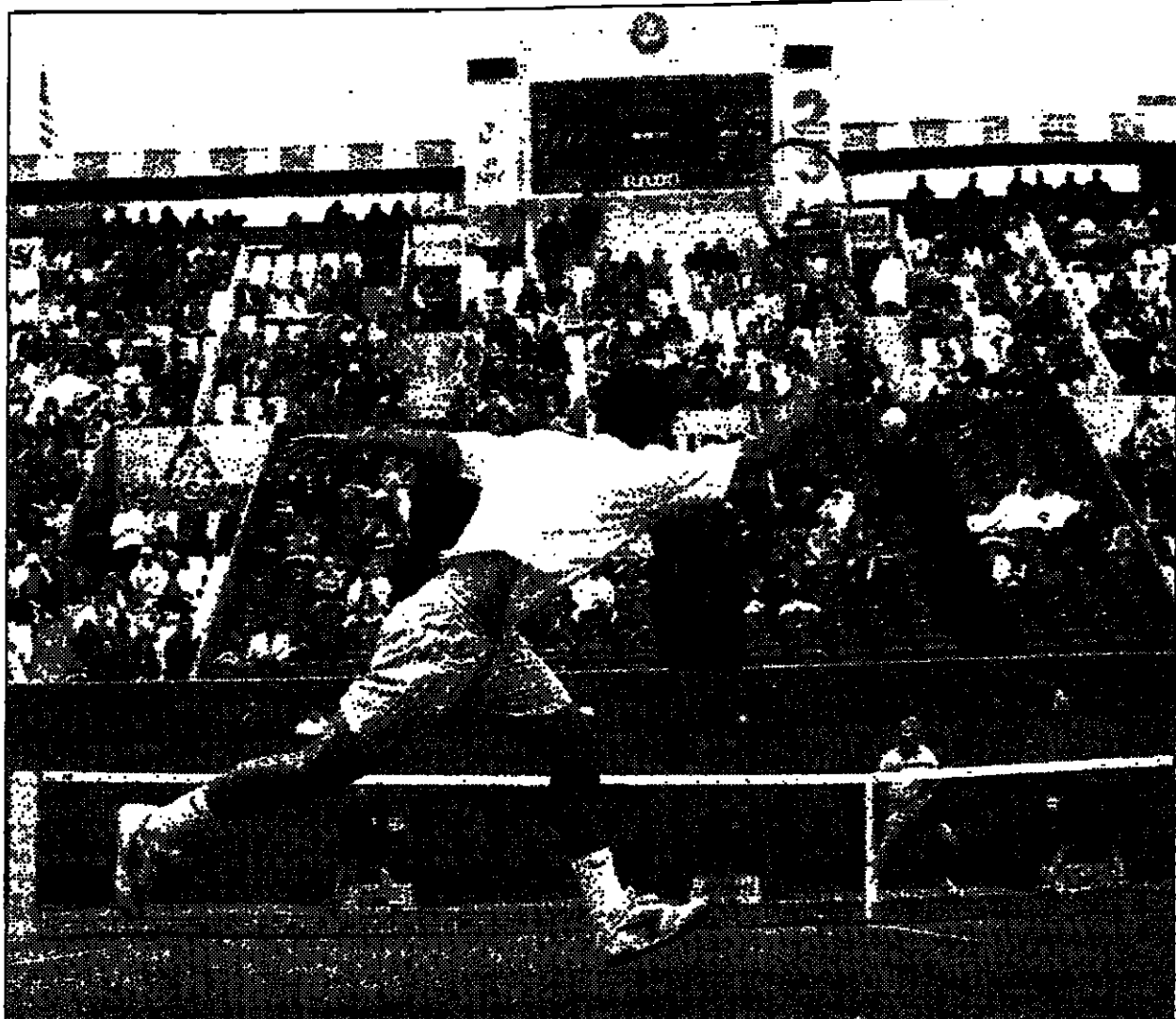
Unfortunately, nobody was looking out for Henri Leconte. The 32-year-old Frenchman with the fragile back who led France to the 1991 Davis Cup has been in semi-retirement for the last two years. But he prepared intensely for his 15th and final appearance at the French Open, and when he walked onto center court for his first-round match against Thomas Johansson of Sweden, he received a stirring, emotional welcome.

Leconte's wife, Marie Sara Bourseiller, was among those cheering as she held their infant daughter in her arms, and Leconte grinned and bowed to the crowd.

But Johansson, ranked 103rd, was in a less nostalgic mood. Final score of Leconte's final French Open: 6-1, 6-1, 6-4.

"It's hard because I wanted to give everything," said a teary Leconte afterward. "It's my last one, and it hurts."

It was a less painful day for Pete Sampras, the top-seeded American with the nasty draw. Despite precious little clay-court preparation, Sampras made surprisingly quick work of Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden, winning 6-1, 7-5, 7-6



Pete Sampras hitting a return to Magnus Gustafsson on center court at the French Open at Roland Garros stadium.

(7-5), and serving 23 aces on a surface rendered even slower than usual by the rain.

Asked later, whether there was anything he liked about clay, Sampras thought for a moment and answered, "In some ways it's fun. It's dirty. It's tough out there."

Hardly a ringing endorsement. But clay-court mavens should excuse Sampras. He has been through a lot of late, attending the funeral of his coach

and friend Tim Gullikson earlier this month and missing the Italian Open to give himself time to grieve. As he walked to the net Monday after match point, he smiled and then looked upward.

"It has been a difficult time," he said. "I've just got to try to get through it and just move on."

To move on, he will have to clear the large hurdle of the two-time French Open champion Sergi Bruguera in the second round. Bruguera, who is un-

seeded this year and coming back from an early-season ankle injury, comfortably handled a fellow Spaniard, Javier Sánchez, in straight sets.

Other winners Monday included the No. 3 men's seed Andre Agassi, No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov, No. 7 Jim Courier, No. 5 women's seed Iva Majoli, No. 6 Anke Huber and No. 12 Mary Pierce, whose new, shoulder-bearing dress turned more heads on center court than her still-erratic groundstrokes.

The Indy 500x2=TV Drama For Auto Racing Addicts

By Brad Spurgeon
International Herald Tribune

I JUST watched the IndyCar 1000. Never heard of it? It was the U.S. auto race doubleheader on my television Sunday.

The Indianapolis 500 has a rival — the U.S. 500 in Michigan — organized by the Championship Auto Racing Team, which has fallen out with Tony George, the owner of the Indianapolis 500 and organizer of the breakaway Indy Racing League series.

The big shots from the CART series withdrew from the Indianapolis 500 in retaliation and created the U.S. 500, with a \$1 million pot for the winner, to run head-to-head against the Indianapolis 500. The result: more than 1,000 miles and seven hours of Indy Car racing for fans who stayed home in front of their televisions.

The big shots of CART predicted that the loss of their star drivers would make the Indy 500 a race of little interest. They said it would be more dangerous than usual, because about half the drivers would be rookies. And, said the big shots from CART, the real losers would be the fans.

My trepidation increased after Scott Brayton killed himself during pre-race testing. I did not want to see a bunch of rookies smash themselves to bits. Nevertheless, I decided to watch the Indy 500.

While several of the drivers were familiar from IndyCar and Formula One, there were indeed few "star quality" drivers. But the cars moved faster than ever and the track looked splendid after its resurfacing by laser last fall. It certainly looked like the Indy 500.

The suspense rose. The tension was intense over the last two laps. The winner was neither an old Formula

One hand nor a rookie. He was certainly not a big shot. He was a guy who had driven in the race on three other occasions, and had never finished better than 16th. A guy whose name I did not remember hearing before.

His name is Buddy. Buddy Lazier. At the end of the race, Buddy could not extricate himself from the cockpit of his car. Buddy had an accident last March and came to the Indy 500 on crutches. He could not even get into his car before the race without help.

Buddy Lazier may never become one of the memorable names of the sport, but I will always remember his victory. I felt very emotional at the end of the Indy 500. I felt great for Buddy.

In Michigan at the first U.S. 500, the race was delayed by 45 minutes because on the lap preceding the race all the old hands had a multica pileup and destroyed several cars. It was the sort of start we had been used to seeing at the Indy 500.

The big shots drove their 3½-hour race. It was a fine one. But I must admit to a certain letdown seeing Jimmy Vasser, the championship leader, win the race. He's won four out of six this season.

What really counted in these two races, the high point of the IndyCar 1,000, was the human drama of a man battling against the odds and his wounded back, to win a race that remains one of the three or four most prestigious in the world. That drama at the Indy 500 overshadowed the absence of the big shots.

Is it really the fans who are missing out? How much richer might Buddy's victory have been if the big shots were there; how much richer Vasser's victory might have been for him if it had been in Indianapolis?

English Rain Can't Dampen Italian Joy

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

VIRGINIA "WATER," England — But for the occasional grunt, the gritting of teeth and the thumping of the club at his feet, Costantino Rocca tried to play the quintessential English course like an Englishman.

No sooner had he beaten the ultimate English golfer Monday than Rocca was celebrating like an Italian — pounding at the air and his dark blue cap, which, unfortunately, was still on his head. His poor putter, which he now loves almost as much as any living thing, was almost torn in half before the caddy rescued it.

"I'm very happy but I cannot tell you what I have inside," he said, his voice cracking.

He finished with a 3-under-par 69 in the heavy, wet conditions at Wentworth for 14-under-par overall to win the Volvo PGA Championship, the first £1 million (\$1.5 million) event on the 25-year-old European Tour. Rocca birdied the last two holes to beat Nick Faldo with a final-round 68, the U.S. Masters champion; and Paul Lawrie (70) of Scotland by two shots.

While Faldo, now 38, was winning his first European tournament, Rocca, a year older, was working as many hours of overtime as he could get as a machinist at a polystyrene factory in Bergamo, not far from Milan.

In those days Faldo hired caddies; Rocca was a caddy. He worked his way

up to become assistant professional at the private club down the steep hill from his parents' home. In seven years on tour, he earned less to support his wife and child — much less — than the £36,850 Faldo accepted this holiday weekend for finishing second. Yet, Rocca became the first Italian to play for the Ryder Cup three years ago.

Rocca has become something of a household name — in golfing households, at least — since missing the short, crucial putt at the 17th hole of Europe's 1993 Ryder Cup defeat. Last September he helped to win it back, and in between he sank the monstrous putt at the St. Andrews 18th to force a playoff for the British Open, which he summarily lost to John Daly. In those three years Rocca had been hopping the fence between heaven and hell without actually winning a tournament. His only European victories had come earlier in 1993, at a pair of events in France.

"A lot of pressure for me inside," said Rocca, who won £166,660 Monday. "I won before, but that was a long time."

Rocca began the final round tied for the lead at 11-under-par with Mark McNulty of Zimbabwe, who would bogey three successive holes coming in for 73 and fourth place overall. Faldo started the day three strokes behind them, and by the 12th they were all tied for the lead at 12-under.

From there it was Faldo who lost control ever so slightly. His short putt

for par did two-thirds of a lap around the 13th hole before hopping clear, and his next birdie putt lipped out as well. In between those disappointments, Rocca birdied the par-5 12th to regain a two-stroke advantage over Faldo.

They danced close once more, when Faldo birdied 15 and Rocca bogeyed it from the trees. Faldo lost the tournament when he failed to birdie the closing par-5. Though he trod off the 17th green, still tied for the lead, Faldo sourly and clearly expected the Italian to do better. Which Rocca did, with a beautiful wedge approach for a birdie of 4 feet, about as long as the putt he missed at the same-numbered hole in the Ryder Cup three years ago.

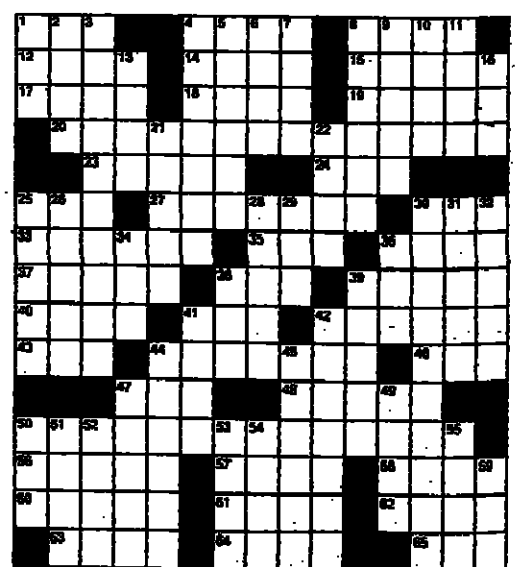
At the 18th Faldo went for the eagle, found the bunker guarding the pin, and soon thereafter started thinking about next month's U.S. Open — and dare it be said, the second leg of the Grand Slam.

Rocca will be going to the U.S. Open, too. Like Faldo, he is coached (if only occasionally) by David Leadbetter, who advised him crucially on his putting last week. There the similarities would seem to end, but no: Like Arnold Palmer, Tony Jacklin, Seve Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam, José María Olazábal and Nick Faldo, Costantino Rocca has won the European PGA Tour's flagship event.

"This is because I have a lot of experience now," Rocca said. "This one I dedicate to my family."

CROSSWORD

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Sixth sense</p> <p>4 Suit part</p> <p>8 Fr. holy woman</p> <p>14 Donjon</p> <p>18 River of Hesse</p> <p>19 Author Gardner et al.</p> <p>17 Suffix with cigar or major</p> <p>18 Hawaiian goose</p> <p>19 Date or Pee Wee</p> <p>20 English writer who applied Darwinian principles to philosophy</p> <p>21 Mill output</p> <p>22 Football lineman</p> <p>23 Col. senior's last</p> <p>27 Bridge support</p> <p>28 Moses, e.g.</p> <p>30 "Speed" star</p> <p>33 Ott or Gibson</p> <p>34 It helps build character</p> <p>37 Broadway conductor</p> <p>38 Bewitch</p> <p>39 Defeats</p> <p>40 Borscht ingredient</p> <p>41 Select number</p> <p>42 Olympian Jackie Joyner</p> <p>43 Poetic contraction</p> <p>44 Bedroom furniture piece</p> <p>45 Be at fault</p> <p>47 Certain intersection</p> <p>48 "Thou shalt not love"</p> <p>49 Commandment</p> <p>50 ABC sitcom star</p> <p>51 Playboys' looks</p> <p>52 "Only Just Begun"</p> <p>53 Actress Sommer</p> <p>54 Intuit</p> <p>51 1974 hit "Tu"</p> <p>56 Govt. agents</p> <p>58 Suffix with pun</p> <p>64 Monthly due</p> <p>65 Match part</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Just make, with "out"</p> <p>2 Thomas of timepieces</p> <p>3 "Where Have All the Flowers Gone"</p> <p>4 Songwriter</p> <p>5 First woman swimmer of the English Channel</p> <p>6 Mailed</p> <p>7 Uno y dos</p> <p>8 Placid</p> <p>9 Poling news</p> <p>10 U.S. power</p> <p>11 Zaire's Mobutu</p> <p>12 Seko</p> <p>13 Saucy</p> <p>14 Sun, speech</p> <p>15 Kind of palm</p> <p>16 Cladornie of Rhode Island</p> <p>18 Diving bird</p> <p>19 Newswoman</p> <p>20 Pousa</p> <p>21 Small ducks</p> <p>22 Matt Dillon movie</p> <p>23 Southern senator</p> <p>24 Reply to a knock</p> <p>25 Bremen's river</p> <p>26 Certain doc</p> <p>27 Neighbor of Lux</p> <p>28 "TV" — "Haw"</p> <p>29 "Games People Play" author</p> <p>30 Eric</p> <p>31 Besser of the comics</p> <p>32 Most acute</p> <p>33 More compact</p> <p>34 Director Spielberg</p> <p>35 Concede</p> <p>36 Weight allowance</p> <p>37 Chicago transports</p> <p>38 Wine sediment</p> <p>39 Spring time</p> <p>40 Juice server</p> <p>41 "Primal Fear" star</p> <p>42 — Ball (arcade game)</p> <p>43 Tolkien creature</p>
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Solution to Puzzle of May 27

BALL	PAPA	DAO
ALAN	ADAMS	DELA
BUZZARD	ALORIN	OWEN
AMY	PALE	BRIOCA
RACE	DEEM	
DESIRE	PERSONAL	
IDENT	LIRA	ROLE
TING	TENER	BITE
ETAL	BACK	MUSED
SHREWSHIRE	LOISERS	
THE	ARCH	PORT
TOLE	PO	COLLURE
LEAR	SACKS	ARID
TAN	FAST	XRAT

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SPORTS

Sonics Take 3-1 Lead In Series With Jazz

By Tom Friend
New York Times Service

SALT LAKE CITY — A cherubic man put a curse on John Stockton on Sunday.

The clock was down to its last second, the game was down to its last shot, the scout from the Chicago Bulls was down to his last pencil and the coach of the Seattle SuperSonics was down to his last resort.

Coach George Karl nearly hopped on the floor to play defense.

Instead, Karl took the sideline, made a wish and watched the best clutch guard in Utah-Jazz history shoot a 25-footer (7.5 meters) that traveled only 34 feet.

The rebound landed in the manic hands of the Sonics' guard Gary Payton, and Seattle had an 88-86 victory in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals that Karl Malone desperately wanted to do over.

"I thought it was in," said Stockton.

"I thought I thought it was in," said Karl. "I thought I thought it was in, I'm going to win. Look at the film, look at my head. My head is down."

The Sonics proved Sunday that they can prosper without Shawn Kemp and that free throws are in their repertoire. They lead this 4-of-7 series, three games to one, and they made a long trip by John Paxson's plane.

Paxson, Phil Jackson's spy from Chicago, flew in from Florida to scout the game, and left with full notes pad.

"I heard the Orlando scout went home," Karl said. "For the funeral."

So, a victory in Game 5 on Tuesday in Seattle would mean that the Sonics could officially see Payton on Michael Jordan. As of now, they are putting the kitchen sink on Malone.

In the game's turn moments, Malone was surrounded by so many waving hands that he passed up shots he will never pass up again. Malone is not the type to kick himself, but he has never been in the National Basketball Association finals, and Sunday he had no one to blame but his large self.

With 13 seconds remaining — with his

adversary Kemp (18 points in 23 minutes) long gone due to his sixth foul — Malone fumbled away a pass with the Jazz trailing, 87-86. Granted, it was a dart thrown by Jeff Hornacek, but Malone usually has the softest hands in the state.

"I threw it in pretty hard," Hornacek said, "but no harder than I usually throw them. Karl's got those gigantic hands."

Instead, Deshaun Schrempf hit one of two free throws with 12.2 seconds left, giving Seattle an 88-86 advantage. It was something of a miracle that he missed one. Seattle had made 21 straight free throws in a two-period stretch, and converted 31 of 36 free throws over all.

Immediately after Schrempf's second free throw, Utah called one final, hysterical time-out. The Jazz players crowded around Coach Jerry Sloan and were told to execute a play they could run in their dreams: the pick-and-roll.

But on the other sideline, the Sonics' players had no coach to crowd around.

"Sometimes coaches can talk too much," Karl said. Instead, he was a man of few words. He told them to expect the pick-and-roll and sent them back on the floor. All of a sudden, Schrempf hollered over the music blaring in the arena, "Huddle up, huddle up."

Remarkably, a group of Sonics players who in the past three years have been called egotistical and selfish — huddled by themselves and implored one another to rely on teamwork.

"We wanted to make sure we were on the same page; I mean, it's not like we can read each other's minds," the Sonics guard Nate McMillan said.

Karl was overcast at that very moment, and almost began to cry.

The Jazz, of all teams, botched the final sequence. The play it has run a million times — Malone picking for Stockton, Stockton passing to Malone for a dunk — never materialized.

The Jazz have had Stockton and Malone together for 11 seasons, and they have not signed players good enough to help them reach the finals.

"Shame on me," said the team's director of operations, Scott Layden.

"Shame on me,"



Sonics' Gary Payton, with the ball, hitting the floor along with teammate Shawn Kemp and Jazz's John Stockton.

Homer in 13th Gives Braves Another Late Victory

The Associated Press

Just like last year, the Atlanta Braves are winning close games.

Greg Maddux gave the bullpen a 3-1 lead Sunday at Pittsburgh, but the relievers failed to hold it. It took until

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

the 13th inning for the Braves to win, with Marquis Grissom hitting a three-run homer off Dan Miceli for a 5-3 victory.

Atlanta won 25 games last season in its final at-bat. The Braves have done it seven times this year.

Marlins 2, Cardinals 2 Jeff Conine homered twice and Gary Sheffield hit his 16th homer for Miami at Joe Robbie Stadium, stopping the Cardinals' five-game winning streak. The game was called with no outs in the top of the eighth after a rain delay of more than an hour.

Astros 7, Cubs 2 Jeff Bagwell drove in three runs with a sacrifice fly and go-ahead double. Shane Reynolds (7-3) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings as Houston completed a three-game home sweep of Chicago.

Phillies 10, Giants 1 Terry Mulholland

allowed one run and six hits in 7½ innings, and Todd Zelle hit a ninth-inning grand slam for visiting Philadelphia.

Mulholland doubled and had an RBI single as part of a 14-hit attack.

Indians 5, Tigers 0 Albert Belle hit his major league-leading 20th homer, a three-run shot in the eighth. Brian Williams (0-2) had held the Indians to two hits and trailed 2-0 when Belle homered off the facade of the upper deck. Belle has hit 65 homers in his last 162 games.

Orioles 6, Athletics 1 In Baltimore, Gregg Zaun doubled home two runs in a four-run inning and Kent Mercker got his first victory since April 24.

Pirates 6, Royals 4 In Kansas City, Ken Hill won his sixth game as Texas rallied against Kansas City's bullpen. Warren Newton hit a two-run single in the seventh to back Hill.

Angels 12, Red Sox 2 In Anaheim, California, Rex Hudler went 5-for-5 and set a career-high with his ninth homer of the season. Hudler connected in the seventh to put the Angels up 10-1.

Mariners 4, Yankees 3 In Seattle, Edgar Martinez and Alex Rodriguez hit home runs off Dwight Gooden. Mar-

tinez hit a three-run homer off Gooden (3-4) in the first and Rodriguez hit his ninth leading off the third.

In games reported in some editions Monday:

Mets 1, Padres 0 Bobby Jones (5-1) scattered five hits in eight innings at Shea Stadium to win his fifth straight decision, and Bernard Gilkey homered in the first. John Franco finished his ninth save in 12 chances.

Dodgers 4, Expos 3 Mike Blowers hit a three-run double off Mel Rojas as Los Angeles overcame a 1-0 deficit in the ninth inning at Montreal.

White Sox 12, Brewers 1 In Chicago, Frank Thomas, Harold Baines and Robin Ventura hit consecutive homers and Chad Kreuter hit Chicago's fourth homer during a seven-run eighth inning. The White Sox became the 16th team in AL history to hit four home runs in one inning.

Twins 3, Blue Jays 3 In Toronto, the pinch hitter Ron Coomer's two-run homer ignited Minnesota's six-run ninth inning.

Cincinnati's game at Colorado was rained out.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

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WEST DIVISION

NATIONAL LEAGUE

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Penguins Play 'Like Florida' To Win, 2-1

By Charlie Nobles
New York Times Service

MIAMI — When it was over, Jaromir Jagr waved off reporters. "Too much pain," the Pittsburgh Penguins' right wing said, pointing to his mouth. His fellow star, Mario Lemieux, who is the Penguins' center, had gobs of sweat rolling off his face as he exhausted at his locker, talking in a whisper.

In danger of falling within one game of elimination in the Eastern Conference finals, the Penguins, known as a finesse team, did more than their share of bumping, with Lemieux and Jagr leading the way.

"We played like Florida does," the left wing, Bryan Smolinski, said after Pittsburgh defeated the Florida Panthers, 2-1, before 14,703 at Miami Arena to tie the 4-of-7 game series at two.

The teams next play Tuesday night in Pittsburgh.

Lemieux's brilliance surfaced when the Penguins needed it most. In a 4-on-4 situation, having played every second shift of the third period, Lemieux zigzagged 75 feet (23 meters) up the ice with the puck, finally shooting from 8 feet. The Panthers' goalie, John Vanbiesbroeck, blocked it, but Smolinski swooped in for the winning follow-up, 3 minutes 31 seconds from the finish.

"Mario's our leader, and he's going to come up with those type of plays," said defenseman J.J. Daigneault.

The Penguins' goalie, Tom Barraso, stopped 32 shots. "When he is on, he is one of the best in the league," Lemieux said.

After an embarrassing 5-2 loss Friday night, the Penguins left a team meeting knowing that their normal style wasn't going to get it done against Florida.

"We found ourselves in a desperate situation," Lemieux said. "Maybe we should be desperate more often."

Even down after two periods, Coach Ed Johnston liked what he saw before the final stanza. "Our room was upbeat, and I had a very good feeling," he said.

IHT Puts Baseball Stats on the Internet

The International Herald Tribune now offers readers a full baseball stats package on the Internet. The Baseball page on the IHT's Web site is updated at 0900 GMT every day except Saturday. Every box score is included, as well as line scores, individual statistical leaders, pitching matchups and the complete 1996 schedule.

The address is: <http://www.ihtrib.com/IHTSPORTS/ib.html>

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DENNIS THE MENACE

5-28

If we wanted to read, all we'd have to do is get ourselves some glasses.

JUNBLE

THAT REMEMBERED WORD GAME

Use the letters to make words, in the one letter to each space, in the one letter to each space, in the one letter to each space.

CANIK

TRIP

TAEQOE

IVIDDE

Answer: CANIK, TRIP, TAEQOE, IVIDDE

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PEANUTS

5-28

WHO'S THAT LADY BACK THERE STANDING BY THE DOOR?

SHE'S AN USHER...

IS SHE THERE TO HELP PEOPLE GET IN OR TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM GETTING OUT?

GARY BASEL

GARY BASEL

GARY BASEL

GARY BASEL

GARY BASEL

GARY BASEL

GARY BASEL

GARY BASEL

GARY BASEL

GARY BASEL

GARY BASEL

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GARY BASEL

CALVIN AND HOBBES

5-28

DO YOU THINK THERE'S A GOD?

WELL, SOMEONE'S OUT TO GET ME

WILLIAM M. WATSON

WILLIAM M. WATSON

WILLIAM M. WATSON

WILLIAM M. WATSON

WILLIAM M. WATSON

WILLIAM M. WATSON

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ART BUCHWALD Trust Antitrust

WASHINGTON — The antitrust division is probably the most peaceful office in Justice Department. It's the government equivalent of the Maytag Man. Its orders are that its lawyers are not to be disturbed under any circumstances — no matter who merges with whom.



Therefore everyone was surprised when somebody leaked that the antitrust people might investigate the merger of two telephone giants — Nynex Corp. and Bell Atlantic.

Toby Crystal was the first to announce the news. She dashed into the antitrust office where staff members were all was snoozing and cried, "We're going to look into the Nynex-Bell merger."

"Nobody informed me," Joan Schickel said. "They don't want us to use the phone as it would be a conflict of interest," Toby told her.

Bob Mauldin said, "What's wrong with letting Nynex and Bell get into bed with each other? We've let much larger firms merge, and it hasn't hurt competition."

"It's budget time," said Toby. "I think the attorney general wants to let the country know that we're still alive."

"How do you stop a merger?" Joan asked. Bob replied, "You have to prove that it will stifle competition."

"That's awfully hard to do," Barry Durbin said. "When two companies merge it's always for the good

of the country. Prices go down, employment goes up, and everybody feels better because they no longer have to compete. I don't know one merger in the last five years that didn't benefit the consumer. That's why they call us the 'silent lawyers.' Our lives have become so boring."

Joan was sympathetic. "It's not fair to pull a surprise like this on us, just before summer vacation. I can't believe that Nynex and Bell Atlantic would merge if they thought that they could get a lock on the market."

Toby said, "If we don't stop the largest banks from merging, why should we complain about the telephone companies?"

Bob Mauldin said, "I blame the media. They think big is bad. We don't stop newspapers, TV and cable companies from joining hands, so why would they expect us to make a big deal over Nynex?"

"If we investigate this, does that mean we have to give up our bridge game in the afternoon?"

Joan said, "For a little while. Once we discover there's nothing wrong with the merger, we can go back to our regular routine."

"O.K., let's look into it. Where do we start?" asked Bob.

"I have a suggestion," said Toby. "Let's check out the Nynex and Bell press releases. I'm sure we'll find a smoking gun there."

Joan laughed. "This could be fun. In all my years in the antitrust division I've never tried to stop a merger. I think I'll call my hairdresser."

Cruise's Mission Turns Out to Be Impossible

By Marc Fisher
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — From the lighting of the fuse and the eruption of the Lalo Schiffrin theme — four notes still indelibly seared into popular consciousness even two decades after the CBS series ended — "Mission: Impossible," the TV show, had something to say and said it more memorably than anyone at the time may have imagined.

The Cold War TV classic was no work of high art — it was formulaic and sometimes comically dumb — but its dedication to doing right and doing well never wavered.

The show was a corny but engaging celebration of American standards: teamwork, outsmarting the enemy, achieving with cleverness what the use of force might botch. The all-business Mr. Phelps (Peter Graves), the virtually silent gadget master Barney Collier (Greg Morris), the resident brute Willie Armitage (Peter Lupus) — each was an American archetype, their individual personalities almost immaterial in the united effort against actors with bad Slavic accents.

Which is exactly what "Mission: Impossible," the movie, is not about. Were the new film merely a lousy remake, simply a tiresome story punched up by a couple of bars of one of TV's most memorable themes, it would be hardly worth a mention.

But the film is far more dishonest than that. It is a tired, cynical denial of everything the TV show meant, and a window onto Hollywood's intellectual bankruptcy and barely perceptible standards.

Far from paying homage to the original, which ran from 1966 to 1973, the new "Mission: Impossible" mocks the audience with teasing references to another time, another mentality. The taped instructions to Phelps (now on video), the puff of smoke as the tape self-destructs (in five seconds, of course), the latex masks — they're all here. But like the samples of classic jazz and R&B that many rappers and rockers now sprinkle into their products, these appropriations of the past demonstrate only that these artists have some taste, and not much talent of their own.

Although the movie reprises the trademark latex disguises, the tactic has lost its deeper meaning. On the TV show, the masks were one tool of many, most of them the subtler weapons of psychological operations, used to lure targets into fantasy worlds where their secrets could be discerned, their intentions gleaned. In the movie, the masks



Tom Cruise, left, and Ving Rhames in Brian De Palma's "Mission: Impossible."

are simply tricks, incidentals in a plot that turns largely on a heist — a fancy, even elegant heist, but nonetheless a burglary, requiring little of the artifice that marked the TV series.

Where each episode of the TV show opened with Phelps selecting his agents from a sheaf of generic dossiers, the movie, driven by its star and co-producer, Tom Cruise, celebrates the individual. With the exception of short-timers Martin Landau and Leonard Nimoy, no one on the original Impossible Mission Force ever amounted to much; the cast seemed chosen for its blandness. The movie kills off its IM Force in the opening minutes, leaving the heroism to a cast of renegades and ne'er-do-wells.

The TV show's creator, Bruce Geller, was a former Rand Corp. strategist who worked from his personal vault of superpower confrontation scenarios. Cruise would never have been hired onto the IM Force. His cocky manner and queasy, uncertain acting would have disqualified him.

Other Hollywood attempts to capitalize on fond memories of bygone TV series have ranged from the morose "Finstones" remake to the honorable "Star Trek" movies, which, while hardly memorable, sought to remain rigorously true to the characters and story lines of the original.

The new "Mission: Impossible" trumpets its lack of respect for tradition. In the movie's publicity materials, producer Paula Wagner is quoted as saying that "it doesn't matter that it came from television. That can be a big asset, because people know the theme song and the concept and the idea and there are huge fans of it all over the world. We also think the movie will stand on its own."

It doesn't. The movie is an action-adventure weighed down by characters suffering from the internal rot of the Agency and an America wallowing in post-Cold War confusion. It tries to pull excitement out of murkiness. The TV show was a spy thriller driven by moral absolutes and a sense of community, among agents, among Americans, among the good. It sought to inspire with tales of clarity.

The only real connection between the two is the music.

That is no small thing, for the "Mission: Impossible" theme is among the most powerful ever written for TV. The movie's producers were obviously deeply aware of this power. Whenever the thin plot collapses, the solution is to break a silence with a hopped-up rendition of the theme's simple yet awesome opening.

Schiffrin wrote the theme for a quieter, more cerebral kind of story line, for char-

acters written more from a jazz sensibility than from the rock mind-set that inspired the filmmakers to add railroad chases and exploding helicopters. It is as pure a piece of music as has ever been attached to a TV show. When Schiffrin composed it, producer Geller had no visuals to show him for guidance.

"All I knew was that it would start with the lighting of a fuse," Schiffrin recalls by phone from his Beverly Hills home, where he is writing a cantata commissioned by Zubin Mehta for the city of Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary celebration. "I had complete freedom, which did not happen in television themes."

The "Mission: Impossible" theme was a hit from the start. It was released as a single and held a place on the Hot 100 list for 14 weeks in 1968. Schiffrin, who now guest-conducts the London Philharmonic, the Paris Philharmonic and the Symphony Orchestra of Madrid, among others, went on to put out two albums of "Mission"-related music.

He started the theme with a long, nervously warbling note played by violins, triangle and celesta (far too subtle for the film score, in which the instrumentation is dramatically inflated). Then comes the famous four-note motif, followed by the cool flutes.

"I just thought about the promise of adventure and excitement, with a little sense of humor," the composer says. Schiffrin's most ingenious decision was to base the theme on a 5/4 rhythm. "I wanted to avoid a predictable beat, and the only exposure most Americans would have had to 5/4 rhythm was Dave Brubeck's 'Take Five.'"

In the new arrangement of the theme, by bassist Adam Clayton and drummer Larry Mullen of the rock band U2, the 5/4 beat slides into a standard 4/4 rhythm, which permits the producers to market the cut as a dance single. "It's a shocking transition, and I like it," Schiffrin says.

But while the remake is a successful dance number, and is capturing a fair amount of air time on MTV, it lacks the emotional meaning of the original. It is all-electronic, an automated bass beat, a wall of sound virtually without texture.

"Maybe it's because we're living in hard-driving times," Schiffrin says by way of explanation. "The taste of the public has changed."

And maybe only Hollywood's taste has changed.

PEOPLE

THOUSANDS of fans lined Sydney's main street to catch a glimpse of Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis and Jean-Claude Van Damme at the opening of Australia's first Planet Hollywood restaurant. The crowd screamed as the actors made their way down the red carpet to a stage set up in the middle of the street. The actor Charlie Sheen and the model Cindy Crawford also made an appearance at the chain's 32d outlet. To the accompaniment of the "Rocky" theme, Stallone bounded onto the stage acknowledging the cheers of the crowd. "Oh shoot, I'm not a god," Stallone said. Well, that's reassuring.

"Leaving Las Vegas" director Mike Figgis was collaborating with Woody Allen on a new project the other night. The two writer-directors weren't behind the camera, however. They were jamming on stage, with Figgis on trumpet and Allen on clarinet at Michael's Pub in New York. When Figgis first sat in, he asked if the band could play "I Wish

That I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate." The song is the same one Allen asked if he could play when he first got up to play with the band years ago.

Salman Rushdie, whose novel "The Satanic Verses" forced him into seclusion seven years ago, called on Bard College graduates to "defy their gods." The British author told the 247 graduates in upstate New York that they will find themselves up against "big and little gods, corporate and incorporeal gods, all of them demanding to be worshipped and obeyed. Defy them. That's my advice to you." He went on: "For as the myths tell us, it is by defying the gods that human beings have best expressed their humanity." Rushdie, 48, went into hiding in February 1989, after the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or death sentence, for the author and placed a \$1 million bounty on his head. The ayatollah claimed "The Satanic Verses" blasphemed Islam. Recently, Rushdie has been more relaxed about

appearing in public and has said he is losing interest in the fatwa. Rushdie said he chose to speak at Bard because the college offered him a faculty position after the ayatollah put out the contract on him. "I have never forgotten that at a moment when red alert signals were flashing all over the world, and all sorts of people and institutions were running scared, Bard College did the opposite," Rushdie said.

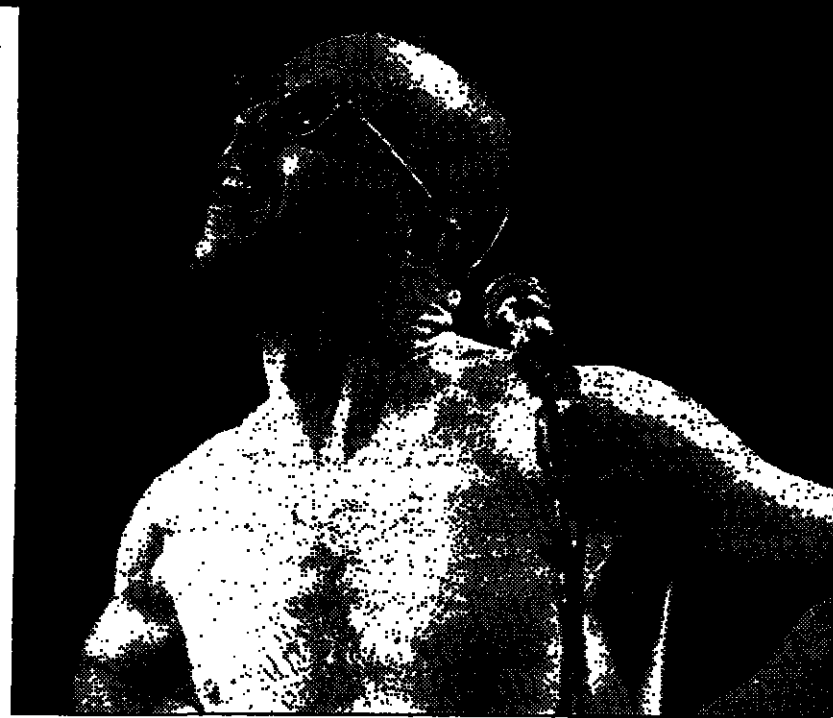
The Prado museum in Madrid has a new director: Fernando Checa Cremades, 44, became the museum's fifth director since 1990, saying, "A new era begins at the Prado." Checa said he would concentrate on "scientific and cultural" pursuits.

Eric Clapton's house was badly damaged in an apparent electrical fire, and he had to act quickly to save his prized guitars. Clapton said he returned to find the three-story mansion in London's Chelsea area ablaze. "I came

back from a day out, opened the front door and smoke billowed out," Clapton said. "The first thing I did was grab my guitars. None of them was damaged."

Merle Haggard sings about love easily — but expressing it to those near him is often difficult, his son says. "He can write about it in a song, but he can't look you face to face and hug you, and tell you that he loves you, and stuff like that," Marty Haggard said in an interview on The Nashville Network. Marty Haggard, also a country singer, said Haggard's four children knew that he loved them. But, he says, "It would have been nice to hear it as a kid every once in a while."

A Spanish bullfighter has become the first female to attain the coveted title of matador in more than half a century. Cristina Sánchez, 24, joined the all-male ranks of matadors — the highest level for bullfighters — after a fight in Nîmes, France.



Bruce Willis didn't overdress for Sydney restaurant opening.

The Left Bank

Fine cuisine

Romantic sunsets

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Sure, you love Paris. But there's one place you love even more. The fastest connections to the place you call home. That's Your True Choice.™ AT&T.

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